Frontispiece *to the* Gentlemans Angler.

Barlow sculp

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THE

GENTLEMAN ANGLER.

CONTAINING

Brief and plain Inſtructions by which the young Beginner may in a ſhort Time become a perfect Artiſt in angling for all Kinds of Fiſh.

WITH

SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS

ON

ANGLE RODS,

AND

ARTIFICIAL FLIES:

Alſo the Method of chuſing the beſt HAIR and INDIAN GRASS; of the proper Times and Seaſons for RIVER and POND FISHING; when FISH SPAWN; and what BAITS are chiefly to be uſed:

ALSO

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

The Art of ROCK and SEA FISHING; and an ALPHABETICAL EXPLANATION of the TECHNICAL WORDS uſed in the ART of ANGLING.

By a GENTLEMAN who has made it his Diverſion upwards of Fourteen Years.

LONDON:

Printed for G. KEARSLEY, at No. 46, in Fleet Street, 1786.

[Price Eighteen Pence.]

[Entered at Stationers' Hall.]

THE

PREFACE.

I May without vanity affirm, that the followin treatiſe upon angling, is the moſt perfect and complete that has hitherto appeared in print. Other books are generally crouded with ſo many ſuperfluous and unneceſſary accounts of the value which ſome kind of foreigners ſet upon ſome kind of fiſh, and with reciting what was the opinion of the ancients concerning them, that they ſeem to be calculated to pleaſe men of ſpeculation rather than to inſtruct a young beginner, or improve him in the art of angling.

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To this may be added, that they abound frequently with a deſcription of the various nets by which fiſh may be taken; how to lay night lines; how to ſnare fiſh; with other nefarious and clandeſtine methods by which they may be deſtroyed; but this is downright poaching, which has nothing to do with angling.

There is as much difference between an angler and a poacher, as between the fair trader and the ſmuggler; and the legiſlature were ſenſible of this, when they made the practices of the one penal, and laid no reſtraint upon the other.

I would not be here thought to inveigh againſt the uſe of nets, by thoſe who are lords

lords of royalties, or pay rent for fiſheries; my ſmall artillery is levelled againſt ſuch perſons only who clandeſtinely invade other men's properties, and, by poaching methods, deſtroy more fiſh in the ſpace of one month, than all the anglers in England take in ſeven years.

Anglers can do no prejudice to a river; they catch fiſh for their recreation and pleaſure, not for lucre; whereas poachers make it their livelihood by night and by day: and it may be truly ſaid, in a literal ſenſe, that all are fiſh which come to their nets.

For theſe reaſons I have omitted all ſuperfluous nicities, deſcriptions, and opinions of the ancients; chuſing to come immediately

to the point, and treat of ſuch things only as will inſtruct a young beginner, and improve thoſe who have made ſome progreſs in the art of angling: and to facilitate this, I have purſued a method entirely new; and have given ſuch plain and eaſy rules and directions, as will, if carefully obſerved and put in practice, quickly enable a young angler to become an artiſt.

Theſe rules and directions are founded upon experience, which is the moſt infallible miſtreſs, and not taken up upon hearſay, to which little credit is to be given: for moſt anglers take a pleaſure in deluding young beginners, and leading them aſtray, by ſending them to ſuch places as are unfrequented by fiſh; and telling them that ſuch baits are proper when

when they know the contrary. This is very ungenerous treatment, and unworthy of an angler: for my part, I am ſo far from repining, that it gives me much ſatisfaction, when it falls to the lot of another to hook a large fiſh; and I never refuſe my aid or my counſel.

Much might be added in commendation of this work; but I ſhall only ſay farther, that I have endeavoured to be conciſe, and to ſtick cloſe to the matter, and rather more to the practice of the art than the theory; and do ſubmit myſelf to the judgement of expert anglers, and the experience of young learners.

THE

THE GENTLEMAN ANGLER.

HE that will be an expert angler, muſt be endowed with the following qualifications, viz.

Patience,
Diligence,
Reſolution.

Patient to endure the diſappointments that attend an angler, who cannot promiſe to himſelf at all times the deſired ſucceſs: diligent in following ſuch inſtructions as ſhall be communicated to him, obſerving the various ſeaſons of the year, and various diſpoſitions of fiſh: reſolute to riſe early and purſue his ſport, whether it be hot or cold, in winter or in ſummer.

It will be needleſs to launch forth in the praiſe and commendation of angling, or to ſhew that it is an innocent diverſion, and a healthful recreation; experience will confirm the truth: and they who are reſolved to become anglers, will ſoon give the ſame judgement, though the plaineſt demonſtration will never be ſufficient to convince and refute its enemies. I ſhall not, therefore, waſte time in unneceſſary encomiums, but proceed to lay down ſuch rules and directions as are grounded upon experience, and which will ſuffice to teach and inſtruct young beginners to become perfect artiſts in time..

Firſt, then, let the young angler be equipped with variety of hooks, and a competent quantity of every ſort; let him be always furniſhed with tackle ſuitable to that branch of angling with which he hath a mind to divert himſelf. Let him not be without wax and a variety of ſilk; a pair of ſciſſars or penknife; a baſket or bag; and landing net plummets, ſhot, and floats of every kind; needles and thread; lines, hair, Indian graſs; variety of feathers, more particularly thoſe taken from the neck of a mallard; the wing of a partridge; a capon's neck; the top of a plover; or the hackle of a red cock. He muſt likewiſe be furniſhed with twiſt and bedding for dubbing his artificial flies: he muſt have a landing hook; reels for his ſilk lines;

lines; a pouch or book for his hair lines, which ought to be rolled up in a circular form; a convenient place to repoſit his ſmall crafts, viz. flies, hooks, wax, ſhot, ſilk, &c. a bag for his worms, and a tin box for his gentles. Daily experience will teach him what other neceſſaries he will have occaſion to uſe.

As ſeveral gentlemen take a pleaſure in making and mending their own rods; and as others delight altogether in a rural life, and conſequently cannot preſently apply themſelves to a fiſh-tackle ſhop when any damage happens to their rods, it may be proper to give ſome hints to thoſe gentlemen, which, when put in practice, will enable them to be artiſts in making their own rods. The butt end of every rod ſhould not exceed two or three feet, at moſt, in length; and every other joint ought to riſe proportionably taper from the firſt: hazel is the beſt for the uppermoſt, which, as well as the others, muſt be cut when the ſap deſcends to the root, that is, in the month of October. I have ſeen very good rods made of the wood taken from the yew tree; but they are generally more brittle than the hazel, eſpecially if not well ſeaſoned. If the ſhoots are a little crooked, let them be warmed in a gentle flame, and then they may with eaſe be made ſtraight; if they have knobs or lumps upon them, a ſharp knife will ſoon

take away thoſe excreſſences, but it is beſt to chooſe thoſe which are naturally ſtraight, taper, and free from knots or banks. Having thus prepared them, place them over a chimney where there is a moderate fire: by this means the pith will be conſumed, and the joint become tough and ſerviceable. Obſerve to place the top joints ſo nicely, that they do not bend or warp in drying; and when you uſe them, apply to the top thereof a piece of whalebone made curiouſly round and taper. Let every joint be nicely ſpliced with a fine waxed thread, according to art; and your rod ought to be ſtronger or weaker in proportion to the ſtrength of the fiſh for which you deſign to angle, or the place in which you angle. It will be very convenient to have rings or eyes (as ſome call them) made of fine wire, and placed ſo artificially upon your rod, from one end to the other, that when you put your eye to one, you may ſee through all the reſt; and your rod being thus furniſhed, you will eaſily learn from thence how to put rings to all your other rods. Through theſe rings your line muſt run, which will be kept in a due poſture, and you will find great benefit thereby. You muſt alſo have a winch or wheel affixed to your rod, about a foot above the end, that you may give liberty to the fiſh, which, if large, will be apt to run a great way before it may

be

be proper to check him, or before he will voluntarily return.

Directions for chooſing good HAIR, INDIAN GRASS, *and* HOOKS.

IN chooſing good hair, obſerve it well, and be ſure that it be long, round, and even, without any flaw, bank, or blemiſh: the ſame directions are to be followed in the choice of the Indian graſs. A young, vigorous, healthy ſtone horſe, who is in his prime, affords the ſtrongeſt hair; and the moſt proper time for plucking his tail (from whence alone hair for making lines is to be taken) is when he goes to cover a mare. An old or ſick horſe has but indifferent hair, and what is taken from a dead horſe, except when he dies ſuddenly and without any lingering diſtemper, and his tail has been immediately cut off, is of little value and ſuffers a diminution of ſtrength. In chooſing your hooks take care they are ſharp at the point, and the beards not broken, but ſharp, ſound, and of a proper length; and obſerve that the wire be not apt to give way, ſo that you may ſtraighten them with your fingers; for if ſo, they will ſpoil your ſport, not being able to hold any fiſh: chooſe a hook whoſe ſhank is ſhort, other-

wiſe it will be apt to break off upon the leaſt touch.

How to make HAIR LINES.

YOU muſt provide yourſelf with an inſtrument for twiſting; then take your hair and cut off a handful at the end, becauſe the bottom part is generally weak, if not rotten, occaſioned by the dirt that lies conſtantly upon it. Turn the top of one hair to the tail of the other, which will cauſe every part to be equally ſtrong; knot them at one end and divide them into three parts: twiſt every part by itſelf and knot them together: then put that end into the cleft of your inſtrument four inches ſhorter than your hair; twine your warp one way alike, and faſten them in three clefts alike ſtraight; then take out the other end, and let it twine which way it will; then ſtrain it a little, and knot it before you take it out.

When you have prepared as many links as will ſuffice to make your line long enough, you muſt then tie them together with a water knot, a Dutch knot, or a weaver's knot; then cut off the ſhort ends about the breadth of a ſtraw from the knot, and thus your lines will be comely and even, and fit for any manner of fiſh.

Now,

Now, for as much as the various ſeaſons of the year, and the various colours of the waters, will require various coloured lines, the young angler may learn to colour his hair (for making lines) after this manner.

How to make HAIR *green.*

HAVING procured a quantity of white hair divide it into ſix parts, then take one quart of ale, and put into it a pound of allum; then put one part of your hair, and all together into a pan, and let them boil ſoftly for half an hour, then take out your hair and let it dry. When you have done this, take two quarts of fair water and put it into another pan, and two handfuls of wax, and lay a tile or a ſtone to preſs it down, and let it boil ſoftly for the ſpace of an hour, and when the ſcum is yellow, put in your hair, with half a pound of copperas beat into powder, and let it boil ſoftly for half an hour; then take it off from the fire and let it ſtand for five or ſix hours, then take out the hair and dry it. By this means you will have a fine green for the water, and the more copperas you put to it the better it will be.

How to make HAIR *yellow.*

THE ſecond quantity of your hair is to be managed as directed before, with allum, or with wax, without copperas or verdigreaſe.

To make another yellow.

TAKE two quarts of ſmall ale, and ſtamp therein three handfuls of walnut leaves, then put in your hair and let it remain until it be of as deep a colour as you would have it.

To make HAIR *a ruſſet colour.*

TAKE a pint of ſtrong lee, and half a pint of ſoot, a little juice of walnut leaves and a quart of allum; put them all together in a pan and boil them well, and when it is cold put in your third quantity of hair, and let it ſteep until it is as dark as you would have it be.

To make HAIR *brown.*

TAKE ſtrong ale and ſalt, mix them together, and let your fourth quantity of hair ſoak therein two days and two nights, and it will be a perfect brown colour.

To

To make HAIR *tawny.*

TAKE lime and water, and mix them together, and ſteep your fifth quantity of hair therein for the ſpace of four or five hours; then take it out, and let it ſoak one day in a tan pit; and it will be as fine a tawny colour as you can deſire for your purpoſe. The ſixth part of your hair remains white.

Now, to know the ſeaſons and different waters, for which thoſe different colours are proper, obſerve, that the yellow is to be uſed in all clear waters from September to November; the ruſſet ſerves all the winter, and until the end of April, as well in rivers as in pools and lakes; the brown is to be uſed in waters which are rather black; the tawny in thoſe rivers or waters that are heathy or mooriſh.

As ſome perſons are curious, and may be deſirous to make their own hooks, they may gratify their curioſity after this manner:

To make HOOKS.

YOU muſt be provided with the following inſtruments, viz. a hammer, a knife, a pair of pincers, a ſemy cleam of iron, a file, a wreſt, a

bender, a pair of long and ſhort tongs, an anvil, and ſteel needles of different ſizes. Put a needle into a fire of charcoal until it be red hot, then take it out and let it cool, and raiſe the beard with your knife; make the point ſharp with a file, or by grinding it upon a ſtone, and put it into the fire again, and then bend it into what ſhape you think fit. Make the upper part of the ſhank four ſquare, and file the edges ſmooth, leſt it fret the lines; then put it into the fire again, and give it an eaſy, gentle, red heat; then quench it ſuddenly in water, and it will be hard and ſtrong.

When you have made your hooks (though they are ſcarce worth the pains or trouble that are taken about them, ſince the beſt may be purchaſed at a cheap price) you muſt learn to faſten them to your line, according to their ſtrength and ſize.

How to whip a HOOK.

TAKE ſmall ſilk of any colour, and if it be for large hooks, then double and twiſt it, and let it be well waxed, and for a ſmall hook let it be ſingle; wind it about that part of your line where you would have the hook ſtand about a ſtraw breadth, then put your hook to it and twiſt the ſilk round it two parts of the length that it ſhall be twiſted in all; and when you come to the third part,

part, then put your ſilk in at the hole three or four times over the beard of your hook; having done this, wet your hook and draw your ſilk tight and cloſe, and take care that your line always lies on the inſide of the hook; then cut off the ſilk and the end of the line as near as you can to the twiſt.

Your lines muſt be proportioned in ſtrength and fineneſs to the different ſorts of fiſh for which you angle: as for example; if for the ſmall roach, the bleak, or the gudgeon, or the ruff, or pope, angle with a line of one hair: for dace or roach of a larger kind, with three hairs; for perch, flounder, or ſmall bream, with four hairs; for chub or chevin, carp, tench, and eel, with ſix hairs; for barbel, large chub, large trout, and great bream, with nine hairs; for ſalmon, with twelve or fifteen hairs; but for as much as trout are ſhy and wary fiſh, and as large bream have ſmall mouths, and require a ſmall hook, it is beſt to uſe the Indian graſs for them as the laſt link of your line, which will be both fine and ſtrong.

How to make FLOATS.

TAKE a piece of cork that is ſound and firm, ſhape it in the form of an egg, ſave only that the one end muſt be ſomewhat ſharper than the ſmall

end of an egg; then bore it through with a ſmall red-hot iron, and make it ſmooth upon a grind-ſtone. A float for one hair muſt be no bigger than a pea; for three hairs, as big as a bean; for ſix hairs, as a ſmall wallnut; for twelve, as large as a French wallnut.

Quill floats with a red head are beſt for ſtill waters, or for rivers whoſe currents are not very ſtrong; but cork is to be uſed in ſtrong currents, or when the ſurface of the water is rough, becauſe it is moſt viſible.

As quill floats are very liable to accident; and as it will often be found neceſſary to join two floats together, ſo that they may be able to bear the greater weight of lead; and for as much as a perſon in the country cannot have immediate recourſe to thoſe who make and mend fiſh tackle; I ſhall therefore give the young angler ſuch inſtructions as will enable him to perform what he wants to have done, as neat, ſtrong and firm, as if he had applied himſelf to the greateſt artiſt in London.

If the float be bruiſed and ſplit, there is no remedy for it; and therefore in ſuch a caſe, ſave the plug or ſmall piece of wood which has the little braſs wire at the end of it, and this may ſerve for another.

If the water gets in at the top of your float, you muſt amend that defect by covering it with ſealing

ſealing wax. If the plug of your float be looſe, pull it out; and if it ſhould chance at any time to come out itſelf, it muſt be put in and faſtened with one of the following cements:

A Cement for FLOATS.

TAKE bees wax bruiſed ſmall, chalk ſcraped fine, and black reſin beaten to powder, of each an equal quantity: melt all theſe together in a ſilver ſpoon, or in a ſmall tin veſſel made for the purpoſe; and take care that they be well mixed as they melt.

Another.

TAKE brick duſt ſifted very fine, and common reſin beat to powder; to one part of brick duſt put two parts of reſin, and melt them as before directed.—Now to fix your plug in your float, dip it in either of the cements when they are melted, and be ſure to put your floats immediately upon it, for the cement cools in an inſtant.

If you would join two floats or quills together, let the plug be of the ſame ſhape with that part of the plug which goes into the mouth of a ſingle float; but let it be a little thicker in the middle than at the ends; and take care that each end be ſomewhat

ſomewhat leſs than the mouth of the quill into which it is to be put, otherwiſe it may be apt to ſplit it. Having thus prepared your plug, dip it into your melted reſin, and place your quill upon it; do the like by the other end of the plug, and by the other quill.

But if you have a mind to faſten two quills together without making uſe of any plug; then ſcrape them, cut them, and make them ready as though it was for a plug; and having warmed them, dip the ends in your melted cement, and fix them together with it. When the cement is cold, which it will be immediately, you will find it ſo ſtrong and hard, that it will prove a difficult matter to pull the two quills aſunder with both hands, without breaking them to pieces.

I ſhall ſay no more concerning floats, but ſhall conclude this head by teaching the young angler how to dye his quills of a beautiful red; and which he may have occaſion to uſe according to the nature of the water in which he angles.

To dye QUILLS *Red.*

TAKE what quantity you pleaſe of ſtale urine, and put therein as much powder of Braſil wood as will make it red: and that you may know whether it will be as red as you would have it, dip a feather

feather into it, and drop a little upon a piece of white paper. Then take ſome fair water, put a handful of ſalt into it, a ſmall quantity of Argol, (which may be bought at an Ironmonger's) and ſtir them about till they are diſſolved in the water; then ſet them over the fire in a copper pot or ſaucepan, and let them boil thoroughly. When the water is cold, ſcrape your quills very well and let them lie a while in it; then take them out and lay them in the urine made red with the Braſil wood, for the ſpace of ten or twelve days; then take them out and hang them up until they are dry, then rub them with a linen cloth, and they will be beautifully tranſparent.

Of ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

IT is the opinion of moſt anglers that it will be loſt labour to give directions how to make, or dub (as ſome term it) an artificial fly, ſince it is ſcarce in the power of words alone ſufficiently to inſtruct any man; the method depending upon practice, which muſt render him expert in that art; and therefore he ought to be inſtructed by a nice and curious hand. Nevertheleſs for the benefit and recreation of thoſe who cannot have recourſe to ſuch artiſts, I will give directions for making the artificial

tificial fly, which may ſerve until he can be better inſtructed.

How to make an ARTIFICIAL FLY.

FIRST arm your hook with the line in the inſide of it, then take your ſciſſars or penknife (the former is beſt and moſt uſeful) and cut ſo much of a brown mallard's feather as you think ſufficient to make the wings of it, having always due regard to the largeneſs or ſmallneſs of your hook; lay the outmoſt part of the feather next to the hook, and the point of the feather next to the ſhank of the hook, then whip it three or four times round with the ſame ſilk with which your hook was armed, and, having faſtened your ſilk, take the hackel of a cock, or capon's neck, or a plover's topping, which is beſt; ſtrip one ſide of the feather, then take the hackel, ſilk crewel, gold or ſilver thread, and faſten theſe at the bent of your hook below the arming; then take the hackel, the ſilver or gold thread, and work it up to the wings, removing your fingers as you turn the ſilk about the hook, and ſtrictly obſerving at every turn that what materials ſoever you work with be tight and neat. When you have made the head, faſten all, and then work your hackel up to the head, and make that faſt; then with a needle

needle divide the wing apart, and whip the ſilk about croſs ways between the wings; then with your thumb turn the point of the feather towards the bent of your hook, and work three or four times about the ſhank of it, then faſten.

There are twelve ſorts of artificial flies, which are generally uſed; viz.

1. The firſt is the dun fly, for March; the body is made of dull-coloured wool, and the wings of a partridge's feather.

2. There is another dun fly; the body is made of black wool, and the wings of a drake's feather.

3. The third is the ſtone fly, in April; the body is of black wool, made yellow under the wings and tail, and ſo made with wings of a drake.

4. The fourth is the ruddy fly, in the beginning of May; the body is made of red wool, wrapt about with black ſilk, and the wings are the feathers of a drake, with the feathers of a red capon alſo, which hang dangling on his ſides, next the tail.

5. The fifth is the yellow or greeniſh fly, uſed in May likewiſe; the body is made of yellow wool, and the wings of the red cock's tail.

6. The ſixth is the black fly, in May alſo; the body is made of black wool, and wrapt about with the harle of a peacock's tail; the wings are made of

of the wings of a brown capon with his blue feathers in his head.

7. The ſeventh is the old yellow fly, uſed in June; the body is made of black wool, with a yellow liſt on either ſide, and the wings taken off; or the wings of a buzzard bound with black braked hemp.

8. The eighth is the Mooriſh fly; the body is made of duſkiſh wool, and the wings of the blackiſh mail of the drake.

9. The ninth is the tawny fly, good until the middle of June; the body is made of tawny wool, the wings made contrary one againſt the other, of the whitiſh mail of the mallard.

10. The tenth is the waſp fly, in July; the body is made of black wool, wrapt about with yellow ſilk, and the wings made of drake's or buzzard's feathers.

11. The eleventh is the ſhell fly, good in mid July; the body is made of greeniſh wool, wrapt about with the harle of a peacock's tail, and the wings made of thoſe of a buzzard.

12. The twelfth is the dark drake fly, good in Auguſt; the body is made of black wool, wrapt about with black ſilk; his wings are made with the mail of a black drake, with a black head.

He who angles upon the ſurface of the water with an artificial fly, ſhould have plenty of them, and

and muſt expect to tire his arm before he can learn the true art of caſting his line dexteroufly; for if three or four inches fall upon the water, it will be ten to one but the fiſh will be frightened away, inſtead of riſing at the fly.

General Inſtructions for ANGLING.

THERE is no great difference in angling in any place or part of a pool or ſtanding water; for it is a priſon to all fiſh, and they are therefore the ſooner taken: but in rivers, the beſt angling is where it is deep and clear at the bottom; eſpecially if it be a gravel or clay without mud or weeds, and if there is a whirling or turning in the water, or a covert, as a hollow bank, great roots of trees, or long weeds floating about the water, where the fiſh may hide themſelves at certain times. It is alſo good to angle in ſtill ſtreams and in valleys of waters, in flood gates and mill ſtreams, and at the bank where the current paſſes, and is deep and clear.

The beſt time of the year, and the beſt time of the day, are from the beginning of May until the latter end of September, and from four of the clock in the morning until eight or nine at night, if the day's length will permit. A lowering day is much

much better than a clear day, and a cold one preferable to a hot one.

If you perceive the trout or the grayling leap any time of the day, angle for him with an artificial fly, according to the ſeaſon of the year; and where the water ebbs and flows, the fiſh will bite in ſome particular places of the ebb and in particular places of the flood after they have reſted behind arches of bridges and ſuch other places.

The beſt and principal time for angling is a lowering day, when the wind blows gently; in ſummer, when it is very hot, there will not be good angling. From September until April it is beſt to angle in a fair ſunſhine day; and if the wind be in the eaſt quarter it is ſtark nought; in the north ſomething better, in the weſt much better, the ſouth beſt of all; according to this ancient diſtich:

The North bad, Eaſt worſe, Weſt good; but the South
Blows every bait into the fiſhes' mouth.

Forbear from angling if the weather be tempeſtuous, as thunder and lightning, or when the wind blows hard, or when it ſnows, hails, or rains much. And here I ſhall caution the angler, and ſhew him twelve impediments which often prevent his ſport: viz.

1. The

1. The fault may be occaſioned by his tackle, as when his lines or hooks are too large.

2. When his bait is dead or decaying.

3. If he angles at a wrong time of the day, when the fiſh are not in the humour of taking his bait.

4. If the fiſh have been ſcared or frightened by the ſight of him or his ſhadow.

5. If the waters are thick, red, or white, being diſturbed with ſudden floods.

6. If the weather be too cold.

7. If the weather be too hot.

8. If it rains much and faſt.

9. If it hails or ſnows.

10. If it be tempeſtuous.

11. If the wind blows high.

12. If the wind be in the eaſt, no fiſh will bite except by chance, and that he is very hungry.

How to keep and preſerve LIVE BAITS, *and other* BAITS.

THEY muſt be all kept ſeverally by themſelves; worms of all kinds are to be kept in moſs, or in moſs and fennel; and the longer they are kept, provided they are not ſick, the better and tougher they will be. In the ſummer ſeaſon the moſs ought to be waſhed and ſqueezed dry at leaſt twice

twice in every week; if oftener, the better it will be for the worms; and a large earthen pan, or tub with good ſtore of moſs in it, is a good receptacle for them. If your worms, eſpecially the brandling, begin to be ſick, or decay, which you will perceive by a knot in the middle of them, (and if not taken care of, will ſoon die) they may be recovered by dropping the quantity of a ſpoonful of milk or cream into the moſs; and if you add an egg beat and boiled in the cream, it will both fatten and preſerve them long. They muſt be kept in a cool place where the ſun cannot come near them. If you deſign your worms for immediate uſe, then keep them in fennel; if not, let them lie in moſs: The beſt ſort of moſs for this purpoſe is the buck's horn, except the white moſs, which is difficult to be found. Brandlings are uſually found in an old dunghill, or ſome rotten place near it, but moſt commonly in cow's or hog's, rather than horſe dung, which is too hot and dry for that kind of worm. But the beſt ſort of them are to be found in the tanners' bark, which they caſt up in heaps after they have uſed it about their leather. Lob worms are to be gathered in the night time when they come out to feed either in graſs fields, or paths, or in garden walks: you muſt have a lantern and candle, move ſlow and ſoftly, and when you perceive them, lay your finger immediately upon

upon them, and draw them out of their holes gently, otherwiſe you will break them. They are quick of apprehenſion, and ſoon retire into their holes, but will come out again in a quarter of an hour or leſs. If they once get quite out of their holes they cannot get in again.

In a dry ſeaſon when you are put to an extremity for worms, take ſome walnut-tree leaves, pound them, and mix them with ſalt water, ſtrain the water from the leaves, and pour it upon the ground in the night where the worms uſed to riſe, and it will make them preſently appear.

To cleanſe and preſerve WORMS.

WHAT I ſhall here relate belongs to all ſorts of worms, except the lob worm; as the brandling, the yellow or ring tail, the marſh worm, the red worm, &c. Take a piece of very coarſe cloth, which is not ſtruck cloſe in the weaving, as other cloth is; waſh it very clean, ſo that no part of the ſope remains in it, and let it dry. Then take ſome liquor wherein a piece of freſh fat beef has been boiled, and ſoak the cloth in it; then wring it out but not too hard, and let ſome of the beef liquor remain in it; then lay it in a deep earthen

earthen pan which has a large bottom; lay your worms upon the cloth, and they will run in and out through it, and ſcour themſelves: let them remain there for the ſpace of twenty-four hours, then waſh your cloth as before, but do not dry it: wet it again in ſome of the ſame liquor, and place your worms upon it and keep them in a cloſe cellar.

Repeat this every other day during the heat of ſummer, and you will not only preſerve your worms alive for three weeks or a month, but you will alſo find them to be red and tough.

When you take any for angling, put them into moſs that has been well waſhed, and not wrung dry; when you come home at night, take out your worms, and put them into your pan, by which they will recover themſelves, and gather freſh ſtrength. Be ſure there is no ſalt in your beef liquor, for if there be, it will kill your worms by purging them to death.

The following, which is called the univerſal and infallible bait, was communicated to me by a very old and experienced angler, who had kept it ſecret for many years. I muſt confeſs I have not had an opportunity of making a trial of it; but however, I will communicate it to the public, and they who pleaſe may uſe it or refuſe it.

The UNIVERSAL *and* INFALLIBLE BAIT.

TAKE oil of comfry by infuſion three drachms, half an ounce of gooſe greaſe, one ſpoonful of the juice of camomile, two drachms of oil of ſpike, and half an ounce of ſpirit of vitriol; diſſolve theſe together over the fire, and when they are thoroughly melted and incorporated, let it ſtand for three or four days; then put it into a gallypot, and ſtop it with a cover of parchment or leather. It will keep good for ſeven years.

Note—The oils and the ſpirits are to be had at any chymiſt's ſhop.

To keep and preſerve COD BAIT *alive.*

CUT a branch from a withy tree, about the thickneſs of your wriſt, ſtrip down the green bark or ſkin to within an inch of the bottom, then cut off the wood, and draw up the bark or ſkin; fix a piece of the ſame wood or a cork to the mouth of it by way of a ſtopper, and put in your cod bait, juſt as you gather them, with their huſks or coverings upon them: at night when you give over your ſport, lay the bark or ſkin of the withy (having firſt ſtopt it cloſe) upon a graſs

plat, or on the graſs in a field, but let there not be any water under it; for the bark being porous, will imbibe and ſuck in a ſufficient quantity of dew and air to keep the cod baits alive: do this every night as long as you uſe the baits; but if it rains, lay the withy bark in a cellar.

How to make PASTE *for angling.*

WASH your hands very clean, then take as much of the fineſt flour as you think fit, or rather the pith or crummy part of the fineſt white bread; drop a little milk or water upon it, and knead it thoroughly in the palm of your hand until it is very near dry; then temper it with a ſmall quantity of the fineſt honey, make it into a round ball, and keep it in a moiſt linen cloth, otherwiſe it will grow dry and hard. If you would have your paſte yellow, mix in it ſome turmeric; but if you would have it to be of a fleſh colour, put a little of the beſt vermilion in it, and knead it well, ſo that it be not of a deeper colour in one place than in another.

An excellent PASTE *for a* CHUB.

TAKE ſome of the oldeſt and ſtrongeſt Cheſhire cheeſe you can get, the crum of a fine man-

manchet, or French bread, and ſome ſheep's-kidney ſuet; put theſe into a mortar and beat them into a paſte, adding as much clarified honey as will be ſufficient to ſoften it.

ANOTHER.

TAKE a few ſhrimps or prawns, pull off their ſhells and ſkins, and take the clear meat and beat it in a mortar with a little honey until it comes to be a paſte; bait the hook with a piece of this, but let the point be lightly covered.

ANT FLIES *are thus preſerved:*

TAKE the blackeſt ant fly out of the ant hill, where you will find them from June until September; gather them with both their wings, and put them into a glaſs that will hold the quantity of a quart of any liquor; but firſt put in a handful or better of the moiſt earth and roots of graſs; then put the flies gently in, that they loſe not their wings; lay a clod of earth over it, and they will keep a month alive, and be always ready for uſe. But if you would keep them longer, get a ſmall barrel of about three or four gallons, waſh it with water and honey, then having put in a quantity of earth and graſs roots, put in your

flies and cover it, and they will live a quarter of a year.

Grubs, which are bred of the ſpawn or eggs of beetles, which they leave in holes that they make under cow or horſe dung, are thus proved: Gather a thouſand or more of them, and put them with a peck or two of their own earth into a veſſel, cover it cloſe down to keep them from the cold and froſts, and you may keep them all the winter, and kill fiſh with them at any time.

Gentles are good bait, and much the better for being lively and tough: when they are taken from tallow, they ought to be kept in moiſt ſand for two or three days; and afterwards, if for conſtant uſe, in bran, or in fine dry ſand; and bait your hook with them after this manner:

How to bait the Hook with a GENTLE.

TAKE one or two gentles, and put your hook into the ſecond joint above the tail, then draw it forward upon the hook; having done this with one or two, then put your hook into the ſecond joint of the laſt gentle, and cover the beard of your hook with it, but do not let the point appear in ſight: if you run it too deep, the ſubſtance of the gentle will come out, and then it is good for

for nothing; therefore take care to run it under the ſkin as gently and as cloſe to it as poſſible.

Gentles may be bred this way: Take a piece of a beaſt's liver, and with a croſs ſtick hang it over a barrel or other veſſel that is half full of dry clay, and let it be fly blown; and as the gentles grow big they will fall into the barrel and ſcour themſelves, and be always ready for uſe: gentles may be ſo bred till after Michaelmas. But if you would keep them all the year, get ſome dead carrion or a bullock's liver, let it be fly blown; and when the gentles begin to be alive and ſtir, then bury it and them in moiſt earth, or in a tub of earth, and keep it as free from froſt as you can. You may dig out the gentles at any time when you intend to uſe them; they will laſt until March or April, but after that time will turn to flies. When they turn black or red, ſeparate them from the reſt, and throw them away, for they are of no uſe.

There are ſome baits which are the brood of hornets, waſps, and humble bees; theſe are to be baked in bread, then their heads to be dipped in blood, and laid to dry.

The artificial minnow is a good bait for trout or perch, and is thus made:

How to make an artificial MINNOW.

THE body muſt be of cloth, wrought upon the back with dark-coloured green ſilk, and a paler green toward the belly, ſhaded as naturally as poſſible, and wrought upon the belly with white ſilk in one part, and ſilver thread in the other; the tail and fins muſt be made of a quill thinly ſhaven, and the eyes with two little black beads. The ladies are the propereſt operators for this piece of needlework, who ought to have a live minnow lying before them for a pattern. Another ſort of artificial minnow is made of tin and painted very naturally, which will be of great ſervice when live minnows cannot be had, and may be bought at the fiſh-tackle ſhops, but they are dear.

How to bait your Hook with a live MINNOW.

CHUSE as white a one as you can get, and of a middle ſize; and that it may turn nimbly in the water and thereby attract the fiſh, you muſt thus place it on a large hook:

Put it into his mouth and out at his gills, then having drawn it three or four inches beyond or through

through his gill, put it again into his mouth, and the point and beards out at his tail; then tie the hook and his tail about very neatly with a white thread, which will make it the apter to turn quick in the water: this done, pull back that part of your line which was ſlack when you hooked the minnow the ſecond time, that it ſhall faſten the head, then the body of the minnow will be almoſt ſtraight on your hook; afterwards try how it will turn, by drawing it acroſs the water, or againſt the ſtream; and if it does not turn nimbly, move the tail a little to the right or left, and try again until it does, for it cannot turn too quick. The ſame method is to be uſed in baiting your hook with a loach or ſtrickle-back.

How to bait with a LOB WORM.

IF the lob worm be large, hook him ſomewhat above and out again a little below the middle; then draw the worm above the arming of your hook (you muſt not enter the hook at the head, but at the tail of the worm, that the point may come out towards the head) and put the point again into the head of the worm, until it comes near the place where it firſt came out: then draw back

that part of the worm which was above the ſhank of your hook and ſo angle with it.

If you deſign to angle with two worms, then put the ſecond worm on before you turn back the hook's head of the firſt: you cannot loſe above two or three worms before you attain to this method of angling, which you will find very uſeful, becauſe you will run on the ground without tangling.

All that I ſhall ſay farther in general is, to adviſe every man who uſes the angle rod, not to approach too near the river ſide, or ſpeak too loud; for whether fiſh are deaf (as ſome people pretend to affirm, though there is good reaſon to believe the contrary) yet they are quick ſighted, and ſoon ſcared. Let him alſo take care that he does not place himſelf ſo, as his own, or the ſhadow of his rod may light upon the water: if either of them does, he may bid adieu to all ſport. He muſt alſo become acquainted with the nature of the river in which he deſigns to angle before he can promiſe himſelf good ſucceſs; and let the wind ſit in what corner it will, it is beſt to angle on the lee ſhore.

The following advice is ſo ſeaſonable, that it ought to be punctually obſerved by every angler, and he will thereby reap the benefit and advantage of it.

WHEN, through neceſſity or choice, you are led to uſe a ſilk line, remember that you do not put it upon your reel while it is wet, but hang it up to dry before you leave the river, or as ſoon as you come home, otherwiſe it will be rotten in a little time.

The ſame method ought to be obſerved in your trouling line, whether it be made of hemp or ſilk; the latter is preferable, becauſe it will not be liable to kink half ſo often as the former. Neither muſt you forget to oil your rods with the beſt ſallad oil; this ought to be done thrice every week, when they have been expoſed much in the ſun, and not to be omitted when you lay them up for any time, for it will preſerve them from ſlitting, and from being worm eaten. Fail not to examine your hooks and lines every time you go to angle, and take care that the one be made faſt, and the other free from knots and flaws.

I ſhall now proceed to give ſome particular directions to the young angler, and make ſome obſervations on the nature of the ſeveral kinds of fiſh which are worth taking: And firſt, of the

SALMON.

THIS is a fiſh of much ſtrength and delicacy, univerſally loved and coveted, and claims preference before all other fiſh; has the pre-eminence, and is therefore called the king or prince of all river fiſh. Salmon ſpawn generally in March, ſometimes in February, according to the nature of the river, and chuſe the freſh-water rivers for that purpoſe. You may frequently obſerve the female, or the ſalmon which has the pea or ſpawn, to work with her belly upon the gravel, until ſhe has caſt up a little hillock on each ſide of her, as well behind as before, inſomuch that you would imagine ſhe deſigned to bury herſelf. In this hole ſhe lays her pea or ſpawn, and from thence is called the ſpawner; and then immediately comes the male ſalmon, who is always near, and caſts his melt upon the pea, and from thence is called the melter; and then they work immediately as hard as poſſible to cover them with the gravel or ſand which they had caſt up.

From

From this conjunction proceed the young ſalmon fry, which do not continue in a river longer than the month of May (except prevented by ſome accident) according to this old diſtich:

"The firſt great flood that happens in May,
"Carries the ſalmon fry down to the ſea."

When the male has caſt his melt, you may obſerve the water to be of a thin milky colour, for the length of fifteen or twenty yards; and if at that time you angle therein, you will meet with plenty of trout.

As all fiſh are ſick immediately after ſpawning, and conſequently unwholeſome, they ought not to be taken until they have recruited their ſtrength, ſome requiring a longer time than others.

Salmon is in ſeaſon from March (if the weather proves warm) until Michaelmas, and is five years before it comes to its full growth; viz.

1. — The firſt year it is called a ſalmon trout.
2. — The ſecond, a bolger.
3. — The third, a half ſalmon.
4. — The fourth, a three-quarters ſalmon.
5. — The fifth, a full-grown ſalmon.

There are two ways of angling for ſalmon, either with the artificial fly, or with bait. The fly ought to be made more gaudy, with large extended wings, and to have ſome gold or ſilver twiſt round its body, the ſhining of which will allure the ſalmon to riſe at the fly. The morning and evening are the propereſt times for angling for him.

Having therefore furniſhed yourſelf with neceſſaries; as, a long, ſtrong, and taper rod and line; a landing net, landing hook, and a baſket or bag to put your fiſh in; repair to the river very early, and take care to have the wind at your back. Having fixed your fly to your line, which ought to be two yards longer than your rod, caſt it from you with art, ſo nicely, that the artificial fly only falls on the water; then draw it gently up the ſtream upon the ſurface of the river A cloudy morning or evening, with a gentle breeze of wind, ſufficient to raiſe a curl upon the water yields good ſport.

When the ſalmon riſes at the fly, upon which you muſt keep your eyes fixed very attentively, give a gentle jerk, that you may hook him; which done, humour him in letting him run which way he will. Do not check him, leſt he break your line from your rod, and wind it up as faſt as you find that he returns, otherwiſe he will entangle and break

break your tackle. Remember to keep him ſo tight, that he may bend your rod pretty much; then ſink or lower your elbow, ſo that your hand be raiſed up, and you'll have the better command over him; for, if you ſuffer him to ſtreighten your rod, he will ſoon make his eſcape from you. As he ſwims away, follow him gently, but do not come within ſight of him. He will be apt to ſpring or leap out of the water; at ſuch time allow him line enough; and when you do perceive that he lies at the bottom, have patience for a while, and be not ſurpriſed if he does this often, for he will ſtrive to break from your hook. Having waited for the ſpace of ſix or ſeven minutes, draw your line pretty tart, and if he runs, then give him liberty as aforeſaid. When he is thoroughly tired, draw him gently to the ſhore or the ſide of the bank where you ſee the moſt convenient place for landing him; then take him out, either by drawing your landing net over his head, (never over the tail of any fiſh) or by faſtening your landing hook under his gills. It will be much ſafer if you have a companion to let him perform this friendly office for you; becauſe, if the ſalmon ſhould not be thoroughly tired, he will be apt to ſwim away, and then you may manage him, having the command of your rod.

The

The way of angling for ſalmon with a bait, is after this manner: Take a dozen of large red or lob worms, well purged, cleanſed, and ſcowered in moſs, draw them over your hook, one by one, and let the laſt cover it, as you have been ſhewn before, in baiting your hook with a lob worm: then draw them cloſe upon one another, that they may appear as one lump; and having affixed lead enough to your line, about twelve inches above your hook, ſufficient to ſink it, drop your bait gently into a deep hole in the river, or cloſe under a bank, which latter place the ſalmon will chuſe for ſhelter.

Having lain a minute or two at the bottom, draw it up and down gently, and if a ſalmon be there, and he has an inclination to feed, he will take your bait: when you have done this half a dozen times, and do not perceive that he bites, it will be in vain to repeat it oftner; for you may conclude there is not any ſalmon there, or that he has no inclination to your bait.

The propereſt and moſt likely hours for ſport, in angling this way, are before ten o'clock in the morning, and after ſix in the evening; but between ten and ſix it will ſcarce anſwer your expectation, except it be immediately after, or during a ſhort ſhower of rain; for that increaſes his appetite,

tite, and he will look out for food of one kind or another.

In angling for ſalmon with a bait, your line muſt be ſtronger than what you uſed with the artificial fly, and likewiſe the top joint of your rod. He will require as much art and ſkill in managing him when hooked by this method of angling, as he did by the former. If this bait prove unſucceſsful, you may uſe a ſmall live fiſh, and running your hook through under the back fin, let him ſwim about the hole, (having taken off the lead from your line) and, in all probability, the ſalmon will ſnap at him, for he is a fiſh of prey, and will feed upon thoſe that are ſmall: if he takes this bait, endeavour to hook him as faſt as you can.

SALMON FRY

ARE a very delicate and palatable fiſh. In angling for them you muſt have a ſingle hai line, and a taper rod; your artificial flies muſt be very ſmall, and ſhould be placed at the diſtance of half a foot from each other, and it matters not of what colour they are. As you draw your line upon the ſurface of the water, you may perceive three or four of them to riſe at one time. They are very greedy, and will afford ſport (ſuch as

as it is) all day long; and you may draw them out of the water with ſafety as ſoon as you have hooked them.

SALMON PEALE

ARE in every reſpect equal to the ſalmon, ſave only that they are not ſo large, for they ſeldom exceed ſixteen inches in length; they ſeem to be a ſpecies of the ſalmon, and ſome give them the preference: they are firm, luſcious, and fleaky, like the ſalmon, and abound principally in the freſh water rivers in the counties of Dorſet and Devon. They will riſe at the artificial fly like the ſalmon; but the beſt way of taking them is with a brandling well ſcoured in moſs, eſpecially ſuch as breed in a tanner's yard. They bite freely, and ſtruggle hard, delighting in deep holes, and chuſe the root or ſtump of a tree for harbour; they lie as near as poſſible to the upper part of the hole, that they may more readily catch what food the ſtream brings down. Drop your line (without lead to it, except one ſingle ſhot) in the ſtream, which will carry it gradually into the hole; and when he bites, be not too eager in ſtriking him, and remember to keep out of ſight. He will feed all the morning, and from

five

five o'clock in the afternoon till night: he is in ſeaſon all the ſummer.

TROUT

ARE well taſted and much admired; they are ſhy and wary, and therefore the angler muſt keep at a diſtance from the water. Trout ſpawn generally in October or November, contrary to the natural courſe of moſt other fiſh, which ſpawn in warm weather, and are to be taken either with the artificial fly or with a bait.

When you uſe the artificial fly your rod and line muſt be proportioned to the breadth of the river: ſix yards is generally a good length; and the rod, as well as the line, muſt be taper. Now though you may, and indeed ought to have great variety of artificial flies ready made; yet the beſt way to try what will beſt pleaſe the trout, is, when you come to the river, to look narrowly upon the water, or to beat a buſh that hangs over the river, and then match your artificial fly in colour to the living fly which you will find upon the water: the ſame method is to be uſed in angling for trout, as is uſed for ſalmon.

There are ſeveral baits for trout: the firſt is the May fly, taken in the month of May, upon old large trees; it is of a browniſh colour, much coveted

veted by the trout, and to be uſed after this manner: bury the point and beard of your hook, which muſt be ſmall, in the back of the fly, between his wings, and let the bottom link of your line conſiſt of three hairs, or let it be the Indian graſs, without any lead or ſhot to either, and your line ſhould be no longer than your rod: then ſhake your fly twice or thrice over the water, that the ſhadow of it may be ſeen before it touches the water, if you ſuſpect a trout to be there; the beſt places are in deep ſtreams, near a buſh or ſtump, or the piles of a bridge; let your fly drop eaſy upon the ſurface of the water, and if there be a trout near he will riſe at it eagerly.

There are other baits, ſome of which are to be uſed a little way under the water, and others at the bottom of the water, or mid water: of the former are the live minnow, (and how to bait your hook with him has been already ſhewn) and the ſtone leach, with which you are to bait your hook after the ſame manner. They are to be uſed with a float to your line, and ſhould not be above four feet under water, or leſs if the water be not deep. The reſt are gentles, caddice, codbait, and the like. Gentles may be uſed with a float, about eighteen inches under water; or without a float, by drawing your line down the ſtream, eſpecially if the water be foul; the caddice, codbait, and ſuch like,

are

are to be put upon your hook like the gentles, and to be drawn up againſt the ſtream as often as they ſink to the bottom: two or more may be put upon the hook at once, as you find the water thicker or clearer. If you angle in weedy rivers, then make uſe of the Indian graſs, a ſmall hook, and two caddices or codbaits, &c.

The laſt ſort of baits which I ſhall mention are the red worm, the lob worm, and the brandling: with theſe you angle at the bottom; and the latter well ſcoured in moſs, is what anglers call a killing bait.

A trout feeds in the daytime, from eight in the morning until eleven; and in the afternoon, from three until five; but late in the evening, and early in the morning are the beſt times for angling for him with the artificial fly, which, it is ſuppoſed, he takes more out of wantonneſs than hunger.

As the largeſt trouts ſeldom ſtir out of their holes all day, they chuſe the night for feeding; and the manner of taking them, at that ſeaſon, is on the ſurface of the water, with a bait or artificial fly: the bait is a large lob worm or two; you muſt chuſe a deep hole where the water runs ſmooth and quiet; then draw your bait upon the top of the water too and fro, and if there be a large trout in the hole he will take it, imagining it to be a frog or water mouſe, which they hunt

at

at night. The old trout is both ſubtile and fearful, but in the night feeds boldly; and when he has taken your bait, let him have time to gorge it; for he will not ſo eaſily forſake it as his cuſtom is when you meet with him by chance in the day time. If you uſe the artificial fly for him, let it be white, and pretty large. Trout feed beſt at bottom, in the months of March, April, and May, and part of June; though he will bite well in July, Auguſt, and September. If you angle for trout immediately after a ſhower, uſe the brandling, the red worm, or caddice, codbait and ſuch like, for the bottom; but for the ſurface, chuſe ſuch a fly as you ſhall find upon the water preſently after the ſhower.

The following obſervations have been found by experience to hold good in the North and in the Weſt of England: Angle for trout in the month of March, with the red worm, at the bottom of the river; and in a ſtream, with a minnow, which you muſt draw up and down. In April take the cankier worm that breeds in great trees, the red ſnail, the bob worm that is bred under cow dung, and the bait which breeds upon the fern leaf. In June uſe the red worm, nip off his head, and put a codbait or caddice firſt upon your hook, and then the red worm. In July take the red worm and codbait together, or a brandling alone. In

Auguſt

Auguſt take a fleſh fly, and a little piece of the fat of bacon, and bind them together about the hook. In September and October uſe the red worm and the minnow, as directed for the month of March.

It would be in vain to mention all the rivers in England which are remarkable for having good trout, or to give a deſcription of the various ſorts of that kind of fiſh; let it ſuffice to ſay, that the greateſt plenty of both are in Hampſhire: and the white trout, the brown trout with white ſpots, and the yellow ſpotted trout, are the three beſt ſorts, (the one preferable to the other as they are mentioned in courſe) except the Fordwich trout near Canterbury, which are reckoned the beſt of fiſh; many of them are as large as ſalmon, but diſtinguiſhed by their different colours, and in their full ſeaſon cut very white. Theſe trouts remain nine months in the ſea, and annually obſerve their time of coming into the freſh water almoſt to a day, but do not continue there above three months.

PIKE, or LUCE,

ARE a firm, good fiſh, but ſo very greedy and voracious that they ſcarce refuſe any thing that falls in their way; and therefore ſome people call them the freſh-water ſhark, or river tyrant.

They

They will feed upon their own ſpecies, and a pike of thirty inches in length will prey upon another of fifteen inches. When they are large they are called pike; when ſmall they have the appellation of Jacks. In the river, pike are preferable to what are taken in the ſalt water, and their uſual time of ſpawning is in April or May; then they go into creeks and ditches, and while the ſpawner is caſting her eggs, the milter hovers over, but does not touch her; and indeed they ought not to be taken till Auguſt or September. They have more courage than the trout or the ſalmon, and are not ſo eaſily ſcared, except upon a ſudden approach. The male is much preferable to the female. There are five ways to catch pike; but as two only belong to the angler, (the others being what we call poaching, which is unworthy of an angler,) I ſhall treat of them ſeparately: theſe two ways are trowling and ſnapping; the former is moſt healthful and diverting.

The tackle to be uſed in trowling, is a rod in length ſeven feet; a line at leaſt thirty yards long, rolled about your reel; a leaded hook with two links of wire faſtened to it; a ring to be fixed to the top of your rod: a landing net or a landing hook, with a ſtick four feet long, into the end of which you ſcrew your landing hook; you muſt alſo have a bag or net for your fiſh. It will be

neceſſary

neceſſary and convenient to carry two or three hooks with you, leſt any miſchance ſhould happen, and you then be deprived of your ſport, for want of a ſupply, when one hook is either broke or loſt.

Of TROWLING.

BEING thus equipt, go early to the river in the morning; and it will be proper that you obſerve the manner of trowling, as uſed by an expert angler, before you do attempt the ſport. The method of fixing your bait is after this manner:

Put the end of your wire into the mouth of a dace or gudgeon, (for theſe are the beſt baits) and run it along through the body until it comes out at the middle of the tail. But for as much as the wire may be apt to bend, I adviſe that you provide a fiſh needle, which you may buy at the fiſh-tackle ſhops; and having placed your wire upon the neck end of your needle, run it through the body of the fiſh, and you may with eaſe draw the wire after it. Fix your hooks on one ſide of the fiſh, and let the point be near his eye; then ſew up his mouth with ſtrong thread, to keep the hook from moving out of its place; then take a fine needle and thread and run it through the head of the fiſh, a little below the eye, and

afterwards

afterwards run it through again below the gills, and faſten it on the other ſide; ſo that the gills being thus ſecured and preſerved will not be damaged by any thing that rubs againſt it in trowling. The fin of the tail ſhould be cut off, and the tail faſtened to the top of the wire, otherwiſe the bait will not lie ſmooth and even upon the hook. It is to be faſtened thus: take a needle and ſtrong thread, run through the tail of the fiſh on one ſide of the wire, and do the ſame on the other ſide of the wire; then faſten it, and run it afterwards through the eye of the wire, and again through the tail of the fiſh; afterwards twiſt it round the wire, and tie it ſo faſt that it may not ſlip. Having made a loop at the end of your line, and faſtened a ſwivel to it, put it through the ring on the top of your rod; and your bait being ready, hang it on your ſwivel.

You are now prepared for trowling; but remember that when you come near the bank of the river, to keep out of ſight, and to drop your bait down the ſide of the bank, and afterwards on the right and left hand, before you ſhew yourſelf: for, as pike love ſhelter or harbour, becauſe they can from thence ruſh on their prey as they ſwim by them; ſo if you ſuddenly appear, you will in all probability frighten them away. Having trowled at home, (as anglers term it) then

veer

veer out more line, and reach the oppoſite ſhore; and as ſoon as your bait begins to ſink, draw back your line by degrees, and coil it up with your left hand. Thus you muſt be always in motion: neither muſt your bait lie ſtill; for its motion in the water is what alarms the pike, who imagines it to be a live bait.

If you meet not with ſport when you have thrown out your bait a dozen times, then go forward to another place; and when a pike takes your bait, which you will perceive by a ſudden jerk, then do not check him, but let him run where he will, allowing him as much line as he will take; for his nature is ſuch, that as ſoon as he ſeizes the bait, he runs as faſt as he can to his harbour, and there pouches his prey. You muſt therefore give him time; ſome will require more and ſome leſs: if he be hungry he will pouch it ſoon; if he is not, he will keep it between his teeth the ſpace of half an hour or more. As ſoon, therefore, as you find that he has reached his harbour, which you will eaſily know, by his not drawing any more of the line with him, then lay down your rod, and waiting as long as you might have ſmoaked a pipe of Tobacco, take up your rod, and draw your line gently as before; if you perceive that he has hold of it ſtill, draw your line tart; and if he pulls, give way a little;

then draw again, till at laſt you get a ſight of him. If you ſee the bait acroſs his mouth, then let him go; if not, you may be aſſured he has pouched it, and then give him a ſudden jerk that the beard of the hook may faſten in his ſtomach: but if he ſhould run away a little after he has firſt taken your bait, then take up your rod and line as faſt as you can and give him a jerk as I juſt now mentioned. If the river be clear you ought to let him run the length of twenty yards, and then check him; this do until you have tired him. But if there are trees or ſtumps in the water, fail not to keep your line tight, and prevent him from going near them, which he will endeavour to do; and if you permit him he will entangle your line about the roots or ſtumps of the trees; and if the waters are deep you will loſe the fiſh, your bait, and a part of your line.

When he is ſufficiently weary, then draw him to the ſide of the bank, and make uſe of your landing net, or landing hook, as directed in landing a ſalmon. Do not offer to weigh him, that is, to lift him out of the water with your line and hook only; for though you may think he is ſo much tired that he is not able to ſtir, yet you may find yourſelf deceived. If he be a ſizeable fiſh, and you pretend to weigh him, you will perceive his pouch to come out of his mouth, ſo plain,

plain, that you may ſee your hook; but then, as ſoon as he has quitted the water, and before you can get him upon the ſhore, he will give a ſudden ſpring, and break his hold: by this means you will loſe your deſire, be deprived of your expectation; and the pike, if grievouſly wounded, will periſh in the water.

SNAPPING

IS the other way by which anglers catch pike. You muſt provide a ſtrong rod, ſixteen or ſeventeen feet long, with a ſtrong whalebone top to it, as thick as the upper part of your little finger; affix to your rod a ſtrong line, not altogether ſo long as your rod; at the end of your line place your ſnap hook, which you may make after this manner: take twelve or fourteen inches of gimp, and two large ſalmon hooks; turn the hooks back to back, and in the middle of them place the gimp; whip or tie them faſt together with a piece of ſilk well waxed, ſo that the hooks cannot turn, nor the gimp be drawn from them; then take a perch hook, and place it between the other two hooks, towards the upper part of the ſhank, and faſten it with a fine waxed ſilk, about eighteen inches from the bottom of your line; put on a large float made of cork;

and under it, at a convenient diſtance, fix as much lead to your line as will poize the float and keep the bait from the other part of the water. They who think it too troubleſome to make their own tackle, may buy them ready made at the proper ſhops. The beſt baits are the gudgeon, the dace, or a ſmall roach; the two firſt are moſt preferable; and if you uſe the dace or the roach, let them not exceed four inches in length. Fix your bait upon your ſmall hook, by running it under his back fin; and being thus equipt, let your bait ſwim down the current; and when you perceive your float to be drawn under water, give a ſtrong jerk, for you may then conclude that the pike has laid hold of it. When he is hooked you muſt treat him after a different manner from any that has been hitherto preſcribed; for whereas you were directed before to give a fiſh liberty to play after you had hooked him, the contrary is now to be obſerved. You muſt therefore govern him with a ſtraight and ſtiff line, for if he can by any means make it ſlack he will ſoon get looſe; wherefore you are to take care to draw him on the ſhore, if a convenient place will offer, if not, you muſt then have recourſe to your landing hook or landing net: and though he will flounce and ſtruggle hard while he is in the water, yet you muſt not regard it, if you have

have a mind to catch him. I am very ſenſible that many will truſt to the ſtrength of their line, and not make uſe of the gimp, or braſs wire; but this is a great argument of imprudence; for as a pike has ſeveral rows of teeth, and as theſe teeth are numerous, ſharp, and of different ſizes, it is two to one that he ſheers or cuts the line; which, though it may by chance bring him to the ſhore, yet it will be ſo mangled that there will be no truſting to it afterwards; whereas he can do very little if any damage to the gimp.

I ſhall give this advice concerning trowling, which is all I ſhall ſay in relation to the pike:

When he has taken the bait, and will not pouch it, but will hold it in his mouth and come to the bank ſide as you draw in your line, and then quit it, which he will often do, or if he caſt it from him ſoon after he has firſt taken it, it will then be in vain to try him any longer: all you have to do is then to uſe your ſnap, and you need not doubt but he will quickly take the bait.

C A R P

SPAWN generally in May, or the beginning of April, eſpecially the river carp, according to the different nature of the waters which they fre-

quent, and the different ſoils. At ſpawning time they may be ſeen in large ſhoals, and are then ſaid to be going to hill, (a phraſe which anglers uſe when carp are going to ſpawn). The river carp is preferable to the pond carp: the latter have a muddy taſte, but the former are free from it, and very ſweet. It is a very bony fiſh, yet much admired; which men of the niceſt palates attribute more to the ſauce than to the delicacy of the fiſh. The time for angling for them is very early in the morning, and late in the evening; they will alſo bite at noon, if diſturbed from their retreat by a ſudden fluſh of water. They chooſe deep holes with a very gentle ſtream; and their beloved places of reſidence are the ſtumps or roots or trees; he is ſubtile and ſtrong, and your line and rod muſt be proportioned to his ſtrength.

The beſt baits are the marſh and flag worms; but you muſt not be too eager or haſty in ſtriking him when he bites, for he will nibble ſome time before he will take the bait into his mouth, and then you ought to eaſe part of your line ten or a dozen inches; and take care that as ſoon as you have hooked a carp you keep him from his harbour or retreat, to which place he will endeavour to retire as ſoon as he perceives that the hook

hook has pricked him; but if you ſuffer him to go thither, you will loſe both fiſh and line.

Carp will bite alſo at paſte: there are ſeveral ſorts; but I look upon the following one to be beſt: viz.

Take the fleſh of a rabbit, and bean flower, ſifted very fine; mix theſe together with honey and incorporate them into a mortar, or work them with your hands into ſmall balls fit for uſe; temper it to ſuch a ſtiff ſubſtance, that it may not waſh off your hook, neither let it be too hard; and if you mix virgin wax, or clariſied honey with it, it will keep all the year. If it be too pale you may make it of a true fleſh colour, by mixing a little vermilion with it.

It will be convenient to put a float upon your line, made of a ſwan's quill; which, when drawn under the water the depth of two or three inches, will direct you when to ſtrike. As carp are very ſhy, ſo you muſt not come near the river ſide; and when you lay in your bait, drop it down as gently as poſſible.

When you have found a good hole, it will not be amiſs to bait it well every day, by which means you will be ſure to draw the carp thither from other parts of the river. The beſt method of doing this effectually, is, to provide a large tin pot punched with holes, and to put therein as

many worms as you think proper; then faſten a line and a piece of lead to it, and ſink it in the hole, and ſo let the worms creep out by degrees; then draw out your tin veſſel, and lay it by for farther uſe. This ought to be done often. The common method is to caſt the worms in by handfuls; but the ſtream will be apt to waſh them away from the place for which they were deſigned.

If you angle for carp in ponds, you muſt riſe by break of day, eſpecially if you deſign to catch thoſe which are large; and the beſt bait that you can uſe is the red worm well ſcowred and dipt in tar, or elſe caddice, juſt as their inclination leads them. You muſt allow them the ſame time to gorge your bait as was directed in angling for river carp: your rod and line muſt be long, becauſe you muſt lay in as far as you can from the ſhore, and your float muſt be large; though indeed you may draw them nearer to you by baiting the place as before is ſhewn, or by caſting the worms in by handfuls; for as it is ſtill water in ponds, the worms cannot be carried to any conſiderable diſtance from the place you intend. You may alſo caſt in ſome boiled malt, which they will often take.

Though carp love mud, yet they delight not in weedy, but in clear water, except a few weeds, which they chooſe for ſhelter. If the water

water be very fat and full of feed, then drop your bait gently near the pond ſide, uſing a very ſmall float and no lead upon your line: you muſt keep out of ſight, and the carp will imagine your bait to be a worm coming out of the bank.

When you angle with paſte, the better to beguile the carp, pellets of paſte ſhould be thrown into the water ſome hours before you undertake your trial of ſkill with the angle rod; and if you throw in ſome ſmall pellets of paſte a day or two before, you are the more likely to ſucceed. If you angle in a large pond, that you may the better draw the carp together, throw into one certain place either grains, or blood mixed with cow dung, or bran mixed with the cruſt of white bread being well ſoaked in water and made into a paſte; or any garbage, as chickens guts, or the like. As you are angling with paſte, whether in a pond or river, chew a little white or brown bread, and caſt it in about the place where your float lies. Crumbs of white bread and honey mixed together, and worked up into a paſte, are very good. Angle for carp at the bottom, if you chooſe the river; and in mid water if you delight in pond angling.

Notwithſtanding what has been already ſaid concerning pond carp, I have obſerved that in

your middle-ſized ponds, which have been made for profit or pleaſure, or perhaps for both, carp will ſwim about the banks of ſuch ponds at noon, provided it be a fair day, and the ſun appears with luſtre. I have often ſeen them prime about twelve or one o'clock among the weeds: whether this be for ſport, or through wantonneſs, as ſome anglers affirm, is of little ſignification. I am apt to think that their priming at ſuch hours, is to catch ſuch flies as fall upon the ſurface of the water. However this I know by experience, that if they meet with a bait in their way which is agreeable to them, they will gorge it moſt voraciouſly, provided that time enough be allowed them to do it.

Now what has the angler to do in this caſe? I will inform him: let him equip himſelf with a rod, whoſe uppermoſt joint muſt be ſtrong, and pliable withal, particularly the whalebone part; he ought alſo to have a ſtrong ſilk line, and his hook ſhould be large enough for a lob worm. Having prepared ſuch ſort of tackle, let him walk about the pond, but at ſome diſtance from it; and if he obſerves the carp to prime, let him ſearch for a place about the bigneſs of the crown of his hat, clear and free from weeds; but if he cannot find any ſuch place, then let him make one by breaking or cutting the weeds.

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This being done, he muſt put his tackle in order, but not uſe any float; nor muſt he have more than one ſingle ſhot on his line, which ſhould be of the larger ſort. When he has baited his hook let him drop it as gently as poſſible into the place that is free from weeds, and as near to the ſide of the pond as conveniently may be. His ſhot or lead muſt lie upon the leaf of the ſtalk of the weed; ſo that his bait will not be above eight inches deep in the water, and yet have liberty enough to move about. He muſt retire from the ſide of the pond, yet not ſo far but what he may plainly perceive the ſhot that is upon the leaf of the weed: the carp, which continually roam about, and do not continue in one place, will ſoon diſcover the worm. When he perceives that his ſhot or lead has been drawn away, together with about ten or twelve inches of the line, he may then venture to ſtrike; and when he finds that he has hooked his fiſh he muſt keep him tight to it, and not ſuffer him to go where he pleaſes; for then he will ſhoot in among the weeds, and entangle the line to ſuch a degree, that it will be impoſſible to get it looſe, except the weeds be cut away. He muſt therefore either take him out of the pond by main force, or draw him by the ſide of the bank into clear water, free from weeds or thraſh, and ſo play him till

he be tired; and then he may take him out with his landing net, or weigh him, if he can uſe no other way. If the angler obſerves this method he may catch ſeveral brace of carp if the pond be well ſtored, and have diverſion enough beſides. This is the manner in which I have angled for pond carp, and have been very ſucceſsful therein. I am ſenſible that many anglers are very tenacious of the old opinion, viz. that carp will not feed except it be early in the morning, or late in the evening. But, with ſubmiſſion to them, I will affirm that they are tenacious of a very great error by embracing that opinion: experience is a demonſtration to the contrary; and if they follow the rules which I have here laid down, they will quickly be undeceived. Beſides why ſhould it be imagined that carp, above all other fiſh, ſhould not have an appetite to feed from four o'clock in the morning, till eight or nine at night? Let not therefore the young angler be intimidated by the erroneous aſſertion of ſuch poſitive perſons: for how can they tell whether a carp will feed at noon, in the ſummer time when the weather is calm and ſky ſerene, and the day warm, who never made any trial? Let him not therefore give credit to ſuch a vain report, but let him truſt to experience.

PERCH

PERCH

IS a fiſh of prey, pleaſant, and well taſted; he bites boldly and freely, and eſpecially in a ſoft rain, or after a violent ſhower, and are oftenеſt found under the willows and other trees, or at the tail of graſs or weeds; and in the winter ſeaſon, they keep in deep waters, well ſheltered. They generally ſpawn in June or the beginning of July, and will feed all day, but beſt in the morning early, and late in the evening. If you angle for them at other times, chuſe ſuch places on which the ſun ſhines leaſt. The beſt baits in general are the lob worm, or the blue tail, newly taken out of cow dung: if you try the live bait, which they will not refuſe, let it be the minnow, and bait your hook with him as before directed; or you may run your hook through the fleſh of his back, under the back fin, or through the upper lip; put a float upon your line, and lead enough to poiſe it; and whether you uſe the worm or minnow, ſtrike not too ſoon, but allow him time to gorge.

It would be convenient when you uſe the minnow, to have your hook whipt to a link of ſmall braſs wire, which hang upon a ſwivel, at

at the bottom of your line; for, as you may often meet with a ſmall jack, he will take your minnow, and ſheer your hair line, or ſhatter and damage a ſilk line.

If your baits are ſpent, you may cut a ſmall piece from the tail of a dace, or a roach; place it upon your hook, ſo as to cover the point, and the perch, who is very voracious, will not refuſe to take it, if he be hungry.

If there be any back ſtreams, which have immediate communication with the river, chuſe to angle there for perch; or in ditches through which the waters run; but then it muſt be very early, or very late. When you angle with a worm let it drag upon the ground; when with a live bait, then in mid water. You will meet with ſucceſs, if you obſerve the following method, viz.

In March, uſe the red worm at the bottom.—In April, the worm that breeds under the bark of an oak tree, or a young frog with the feet cut off, or the red ſnail.—In May, the bait that breeds on the oſier leaf, or the dock worm; or the bait that breeds on the oak leaf, or the hawthorn.—In June, the red worm with the head cut off, and a cod bait put before it, or the dor.—Take the large graſhopper, or grub, that breeds in a dunghill, for July: — and in Auguſt, young bees

bees and hornets.—In September, and the months following, uſe the red worms, or two brandlings.

BARBEL

IS accounted by moſt people, to be a very coarſe fiſh; yet it is firm and well taſted; and there being ſuch plenty of them, may perhaps be one reaſon why they are not ſo much eſteemed as a carp; for they will eat full as well if you dreſs them carp faſhion. They ſpawn in April; and ſome of them are ſo large, that they will weigh twelve or fourteen pounds; and therefore, your rod and line ought to be very ſtrong, and faſtened with rings, and a winch or wheel, as directed for the ſalmon rod.

The beſt time for angling for barbel, is very early in the morning; the bait is a lob worm, well ſcoured in freſh ſweet moſs; for he is a nice feeder, though he bites freely. They lie in deep water, at the end of a current, and ſometimes in a ſtill ſtream during ſummer time; they will bite alſo about five o'clock in the evening, if they be driven from their harbour by a ſudden flaſh of water.

At the latter end of ſummer, they reſort chiefly to the banks of ſand or gravel, in deep waters, or

at

at the tail of a rapid ſtream, among weeds, or under oſiers. Their ſpawn is ſurfeiting and dangerous; and whoever eats thereof, will break out in blotches and red ſpots; will loathe his meat, loſe his appetite, and be extremely diſordered: his liver is likewiſe unwholeſome.

The two famous places to angle for barbel about London, are at Kingſton bridge, and Shepperton pool; at the latter of which places, there is good accommodation for anglers; a great quantity of barbel, and good company all the ſummer; you may there likewiſe be ſupplied with ſtore of bait at all times.

A barbel hole ſhould be conſtantly baited with lob worms; and no barbel ought, by the rules of angling, to be killed, which does not meaſure eighteen inches fairly. A barbel taken in Byfleet or Weybridge rivers, of twenty inches in length, will down-weigh another of the ſame length taken in the Thames, by a pound or upwards, and is much firmer, fatter, and better reliſhed.

CHUB or CHEVIN,

IS a coarſe, boney fiſh, and the head is the beſt part about him. It ſpawns in March; is very

very wary and ſly; delighting in quick, deep ſtreams, and loves ſhelter; as bridges, trees, planks, &c. under which are ſandy or clay bottoms. They are cowardly, inſomuch that if you once turn them, they are preſently diſpirited, and you may manage them as you pleaſe.

For this reaſon, ſome waggiſh, merry anglers, compare them to Portugueſe ſoldiers, who have very little inclination to fighting at any time, even though the defence of their country requires them; and if their enemy make a vigorous attack, they immediately turn tail; and it is twenty to one if you can prevail with them by any means to face about.

A chub is a voracious fiſh, and will feed all day long; but he bites beſt in the morning; and a minnow will allure him at mid-day. If the current be ſtrong, and the water deep, a lob worm is the beſt bait you can uſe at the bottom; but upon the ſurface of the water, uſe a graſhopper, a bee, a waſp, a caterpillar, or moth; and about two feet under water he will take a black ſnail with his belly ſlit to ſhew the white part of it, or a piece of cheeſe.

During the ſummer ſeaſon, about ſeven o'clock in the evening, a chub yields good diverſion: if then you go into a punt or boat, and floating down the river over which willows or other trees

do

do hang, angle with a bee, moth, &c. as you do with the artificial fly for trout, and they will riſe as faſt as you can throw out your line for them.

It is farther to be obſerved, that in angling for chub, in March and April he is uſually taken with worms; in May, June, and July, he will bite at cherries, or at any fly, or at beetles, with their legs and wings cut off; or at any kind of ſnail, or the black bee that breeds in clay walls. In Anguſt he never refuſes the graſhopper on the top of a ſwift ſtream, or the young humble bee that breeds in long graſs, and is ordinarily found by the mowers.

In the cooler months, a yellow paſte, made of the ſtrongeſt cheeſe, and pounded in a mortar, with a little butter and ſaffron (ſo much of it as is beaten ſmall will turn to a lemon colour.) The ſpawn of a chub is excellent, and he is in ſeaſon from the middle of May until Candlemas.

There is no fiſh better in the water to enter a young angler, he is ſo eaſily caught; but then it muſt be in this particular way: — In moſt hot days, you find a dozen or twenty chubs floating near the top of the water; place yourſelf behind ſome buſh or tree, and ſtand as free from motion as poſſible; bait your hook with a graſhopper,

and

and let it hang a quarter of a yard ſhort of the water; to which end, you muſt have ſome convenient reſt or ſtand for your rod; and it is very probable that the chubs will ſink down towards the bottom of the water at the ſhadow of your rod (for a chub is the fearfulleſt of all fiſhes) and will do ſo if but a bird flies over him, and makes the leaſt ſhadow on the water; nevertheleſs, they will preſently riſe, and lie ſoaring near the top again, at which time move your rod very ſlowly to that chub you intend to catch. Let your bait fall gently upon the water, three or four inches before him, and he will infallibly take it, for he is a leather-mouthed fiſh, having his teeth near his throat, of which a hook does ſcarce ever loſe its hold; and therefore give him play enough, before you offer to take him out of the water.

BREAM,

WHEN full grown, is a very large, flat fiſh, and is very ſcarce in the rivers within twenty miles of London. His chiefeſt delight is in a pond, where, if he likes the water and air, he will breed exceedingly; in ſome ponds ſo faſt as to overſtock them. His tail is forked, his ſcales

ſet

ſet in an excellent order; he has large eyes, a ſmall ſucking mouth, and two ſets of teeth. The milter is obſerved to have two large milts, and the ſpawner two bags of ſpawn. Their hours of feeding are extremely early, or extremely late; but if it be a lowering day, and the wind blows ſtrong, he will bite at any time of the day. As his mouth is ſmall, ſo your hook muſt be proportioned to the ſize of his mouth; and, therefore, as you will be neceſſitated to uſe ſtrong tackle, ſo your hook ſhould be whipt to an Indian graſs.

He delights in the middle of a deep, large, hole, with a very ſlow ſtream; and the moſt common bait is the flag or red worm, well ſcowered in moſs and fennel. He will alſo take a paſte made of brown bread and honey, or gentles, or the worm like a maggot, which is found at dock roots, flags or ruſhes in wartry places. In June and July he will bite at a graſhopper, or at the flies which are found on flags that grow near the water ſide.

The hole wherein you deſign to angle ought to be baited after this manner: Take a peck of ſweet groſs-ground-barley malt, boil it in a kettle, then ſtrain it through a bag into a tub; and when it is near cold, take it to the water ſide, about eight or nine o'clock in the evening, and not before;

fore; throw in two parts of your ground bait, ſqueezed hard between your hands; it will preſently ſink to the bottom, and take care that it lodges in the very place where you intend to angle.

When you angle for the bream, lay in your bait ſoftly, in the middle of your ground bait, but let not your lead be above two feet under water, and when he bites he will throw up your float, which muſt be of a middle ſize; and, when you perceive it to lie flat upon the ſurface of the water, you may then conclude that he has gorged your bait: ſtrike gently, and hold your rod at a bent a little while; for if you both pull, you may loſe your game, if not your hook and line.

As his delightful harbour is the water dock, under which he lies, ſo you muſt take care to keep him from thence when you have hooked him: he will ſtrive to get thither, that he may entangle your line about the ſtalk of the water dock, which being naturally very tough, it will be impoſſible to diſengage yourſelf from thence. His being a flat fiſh, as I ſaid before, cauſes him to draw much water; which, though it does not increaſe his natural ſtrength, nevertheleſs it will add to the difficulty you will find in taking him. He affords noble ſport, and is very ſhy to be landed; and when you have finiſhed your day's work,

work, then caſt in the remainder of your ground bait.

Having uſed this method and ſport for three or four days, the bream will grow very ſhy and wary; then deſiſt for two or three days or longer; and in the place where you laſt baited, and intend to renew your bait, take a turf of ſhort graſs, about the bigneſs or circumference of a pewter plate, and with a needle and green thread, faſten one by one, as many little red worms, as will almoſt cover the turf; make a hole in the middle of a round board, placing the turf thereon, then put a cord through, and tying it to a pole, let it down to the bottom of the water, for the fiſh do feed upon without diſturbance for about three or four days, and after that time, when you have drawn it away, you will find ſport almoſt beyond your expectation.

TENCH

ARE a ſtill-water fiſh, and delight in ponds more than rivers: he is a leather-mouthed fiſh, like the barbel; but as this latter chuſes a gravel or ſand, ſo the former takes pleaſure in mud. One tench that is taken in a river is worth ſix that is taken in a pond. Some tench ſpawn in May,

May, others in June; and the ſame caution and method is to be uſed in angling for this fiſh, which has been preſcribed for carp.

If you angle for tench, you muſt repair thither by dawn of day, eſpecially if you deſign to take thoſe that are large, which ſeldom exceed twelve inches. Your tackle muſt be ſtrong, becauſe they delight very much to be among the weeds; and you will meet with little ſport after the ſun riſes. Renew your ſport about ſix o'clock in the afternoon; and let your ground bait be the ſame as directed for carp.

When you angle in a river for tench, chuſe the deepeſt and moſt ſilent waters; they ought to be ſo ſtill, and the ſurface ſo ſmooth and even, that it cannot give the leaſt motion to your float. Angle from daylight to ſeven o'clock in the morning, and from five o'clock in the afternoon until the night compels you to give over: be not too eager in ſtriking him when he bites; for as he delights in ſucking the bait, allow him time, and he will not quit it.

The beſt and moſt inticing bait (and indeed you need not uſe any other, whether for pond or river) is the red worm dipt in tar: or, take the clotted black blood out of the heart of a ſheep, ſome fine flour, and honey, temper them fine together, and make them of the conſiſtence of an

un-

unguent, and anoint the red worm with it: I know not which is preferable, this or the tar. No other bait is to be compared to either of them: June, July, and Auguſt, are the only months in which you muſt expect to have any ſport with tench.

GREYLING, or UMBER,

SELDOM exceeds eighteen inches in ſize; he is good all the year, but is principally in ſeaſon in December; at which time he is black about the head, gills, and down the back, and his belly of a dark grey, dappled with beautiful black ſpots. His haunts are the ſame with thoſe of the trout, and he is to be taken the ſame way. He will riſe twenty times at a fly; and if you miſs him, will riſe again: he lies cloſe all the winter, comes abroad the latter end of April, and ſwims nimbly in the middle of the water.

When you angle for greyling, uſe a cork float, and let not your bait come within two feet of the bottom; for he is more apt to riſe than to deſcend to the bait. In March and April uſe the red worm; In May, the green worm; in June, the bait that breeds under the bark of an oak; in July, the bait that breeds on the fern leaf; the red worm with

with his head taken off, and a cod bait placed on the hook, and the worm put after it, is another good bait:—In Auguſt the red worm and the dock worm; and the red worm all the reſt of the year.

FLOUNDERS

ARE firm and good; ſo innocent in their nature, and ſo nutritive, that phyſicians order them to be given to ſick perſons, when their weak ſtomachs cannot digeſt any other food; eſpecially thoſe which do frequent, and are taken in the freſh-water rivers.

They are in ſeaſon all the year, except the time of their ſpawning, which is from the latter end of June to the middle of July; and as they are then ſick and flabby, they are conſequently unwholeſome. At ſuch a juncture, if any of them be taken, you may perceive ſmall worms, about the length of half an inch, and in ſome the length of an inch; which have (as it were) made a bed for themſelves in the back of the flounder: and this will appear to be after the ſame nature with certain worms in ſome rivers in the Weſt Indies; which, by eating away part of the plank of a ſhip, make a reſting place for themſelves

ſelves therein; and will, in time, work a paſſage through the thickeſt part of the ſhip which lies under water.

Flounders are a ſhy and wary fiſh, and feed at bottom: their common and moſt delightful places of reſort, are the ſides of ſand banks, caſt up by mill ſtreams or wears, or by ſtrong eddies. Sometimes they are found at the tail of mill ſtreams, or at a more remote diſtance from them; in deep waters, under or next unto the bank ſides, eſpecially if the bottom be ſand or gravel, and has a declivity. If you find a hole in a river, which looks ever ſo likely, and there is mud at the bottom, it will be loſt labour to angle therein; for the leaſt mud or filth choaks flounders.

As they are geedy and voracious, they will bite at any red worm; but the lob worm, as it is the largeſt, will entice them ſooneſt, provided it be well ſcoured. The uſual way of angling for them is to lie upon the grabble; that is, to put ſo much lead upon your line, about twelve or fourteen inches diſtant from your hook, that it may keep it ſteady at bottom, and the bait having liberty to be twirled about by the water.

If you uſe a float, let it lie flat upon the ſurface; and when it firſt cocks up, and is afterwards drawn under water, you may then conclude that

the

the flounder has, or is taking your bait. Remember to allow him time; for he will ſuck all the worm into his mouth before he gorges it. The hook which you uſe cannot be too ſmall, if you can get your bait upon it.

MULLETS

ARE a ſalt-water fiſh, well taſted, delicate, and much admired. During the ſummer ſeaſon they come into the rivers which lie contiguous to the ſea, as often as the tide flows. Great plenty of them may be taken with an angle rod, which, as well as the line muſt be ſtrong.

They will riſe like a trout or ſalmon at an artificial fly, which muſt be larger than what is uſed for the trout; and they will alſo take a worm under water, if you angle about two feet from the bottom. They are wonderfully ſly and wary, but feed as freely as any fiſh, and will afford much ſport and diverſion. They abound chiefly along the ſouthern and ſouth-weſt parts of England, which lie oppoſite to France. The river Ax, in the county of Devon, about two miles below the town of Axminſter, yields vaſt quantities of them every time the tide flows.

SMELTS

ARE a fine fiſh, with a delicate flavour, and are in ſeaſon twice a year. They make their firſt appearance about the middle of March, and the beſt are taken at Chelſea and Hammerſmith. At the ſecond time of their coming into the river Thames, which is in the month of Auguſt, they ſeldom reach higher than London bridge; and the fineſt and largeſt are taken oppoſite to Deptford and Greenwich. In angling for them, uſe the pater-noſter line of one hair, and let your bait be gentles or white paſte.

ROACH

ARE a coarſe, bony fiſh; but the largeſt ſort, which ſeldom exceed twelve inches, will yield good ſport. Their ſpawning time is in June, when they are ſcabby and unwholeſome. The chief bait for them is boiled malt, gentles, white and red paſte; but if you angle for them in windy weather, then uſe the ſmall red worm. They frequent gentle ſtreams which are not ſhallow, and will bite freely. When winter begins to approach, they retire into the deeps at the end of ſtrong cur-

currents: here you will have occaſion to uſe more lead than ordinary; and conſequently, the largeſt float, and a ſtronger line to bear the lead: and here as well as in other places, you muſt angle about twelve inches from the bottom.

They who deſire to have much diverſion, and to take many roach, may gratify themſelves after the following manner — Having provided a ſufficient quantity of gentles, go below London bridge, as far as Shadwell, Ratcliff, Limehouſe, or thereabouts; then take a boat, and faſten it to the ſtern of a collier, or ſome other large veſſel, which has lain ſome time in the river, and with a ſhort rod, and a line not exceeding four feet in length, angle there; and remember to put three or four gentles upon your hook at one time. Let your float be twelve inches diſtant from the top of your rod; and lay in your bait as cloſe to the ſtern of the ſhip as you can, and let it ſwim about three yards. This muſt be done when the tide begins to ebb, and you will not fail of good ſport for two hours at leaſt, and what you catch will be large.

R U D

ARE a ſort of roach, but much preferable, and of a golden colour: are ſtrong, broad, and thick,

and feed near the top of the water. The principal baits for this fiſh are red worms and flies. They will feed very generouſly, and divert the angler; for they ſtruggle hard and are very ſtrong.

D A C E

ARE a bright handſome fiſh, and they ſpawn generally in March; they love a gravelly ſcour; are very ſhy and wary, like the trout, and when frightened, retire into the deeps. They are to be taken on the ſurface of the water with a fine, nice, common fly, and will riſe ſooner at the black, than any other colour. If you angle upon a ſcour, uſe gentles or paſte; if in the deeps, let ſodden malt, or houſe flies be the bait; and do not ſuffer your line, which ſhould be of a ſingle hair, to be above two or three feet under water: they will alſo take the little red worm, caddice, or graſhopper. With the former of theſe, you may uſe the ſmalleſt float, and one ſhot to poiſe it; and when the graſhopper is your bait, pull off the legs, put the point of your hook under his tail, then run it through, and bury it in the back part of his head; and remember to ſtrike him nimbly as ſoon as he bites.

Dace

Dace may alſo be taken with fleſh flies upon the ſurface of the water, into whoſe backs, between their wings, you muſt put your hook, which ſhould be ſmall. They bite in the morning and evening; and when you have a mind for much diverſion, you muſt provide a cane rod, which is the lighteſt of any; let it be at leaſt ſeventeen feet in length; and your line, which ſhould from the middle downwards, conſiſt of ſingle hairs, muſt be ſomewhat longer than your rod.

You ought alſo to be furniſhed with a ſufficient quantity of ſmall houſe flies, which keep in a glaſs bottle ſtopped with a cork: then, about ſeven or eight o'clock in the evening, repair to a mill ſtream, and having fixed three or four hooks with ſingle hairs linked, not above four inches long, to your line, bait them with the flies, and angle upon the ſurface of the water, on the ſmoothest part, at the end of the mill ſtream, in the ſame manner as you are directed to angle for trout. The dace will riſe freely, eſpecially if the ſun does not ſhine on that part of the water where you caſt your line, and you may take two or three at a time. This ſport will continue as long as daylight will permit you to ſee your flies.

Dace will alſo riſe at the ant fly upon the ſurface of the water, if uſed in a morning at the

foot of a current, or millſtream, or on the ſcour, before the ſun comes upon the water.

If you angle for them upon the Thames, you muſt prepare your ground-bait made of bran, a cruſt of white bread ſoaked and worked up into round balls, with little ſtones in the middle: take a boat; and when you chuſe a place, let it be under the wind, when the water is ſmooth; plumb the depth, and let your lead be eight inches from the bottom; then caſt in your ground bait about four yards above the head of your boat, and two or three of the balls nearer to you, and lay in your bait exactly over your ground-bait. Take your ſwim as long as your rod and line will permit, and always remember not to let it ſwim too far; and when you draw it up, give a little jerk. When your float ſinks, then ſtrike; and be not too eager to take your fiſh out of the water. This method may alſo be obſerved in angling for roach.

A dace freſh taken, and ſcotched, and broiled, eats ſweeter, and is more palatable than a freſh herring. Dace ſeldom exceed ten inches in length.

I have already obſerved, that dace ſpawn generally in March; and I think I may venture to affirm, that they ſpawn twice a year, though I will not take upon me to ſay in which month they ſpawn the ſecond time: and the reaſon why I am

pretty

pretty positive herein is, that I have found by experience, small and middle-sized dace, which I have taken at the latter end of October, and beginning of November, to be full of milts and roes; and, according to my judgement, those fish had a finer flavour and relish than any that I took or eat in summer.

Although I have said much in relation to the several methods by which the fair angler may catch dace; yet I hope he will not take it amiss, if I impart to him two things, which I have lately discovered, and which will complete what I have to say; not doubting but he will be pleased with them, since he may thereby increase his sport, and the number of his fish.

The first then is this: If the water be high, so as to rise almost to the banks of the river, then fasten to your line an artificial fly, called the caterpillar fly; then take a large yellow gentle, (the yellower the better) run the hook through the skin of them, and draw him up to the tail of your artificial fly: this being done, whip with it on the surface of the water; and if you are diligent and expert, you may assure yourself good sport.

The second thing I have to observe, is; that if you angle where two milstreams are going at one and the same time, let it be in the eddy, between the two streams: first make use of your plummet;

and if the water be deep, you muſt angle within a foot of the bottom, and perhaps you will find but little ſport. But if it proves to be ſhallow, that is, about the depth of two feet, or not exceeding three, then bait your hook with three large gentles: uſe a cork float, which ought not to be above a foot and a half from the hook, and have a quick eye to ſtrike at the very firſt bite; for if there are any large dace in the millpool, they will reſort to the eddy between the two ſtreams.

If every angler did conſider, that gentles are not only the moſt univerſal, but alſo the moſt alluring bait, they would always carry ſome of them with them. I have taken trout with gentles, when every kind of worm has been refuſed, and artificial flies rejected. I have taken all ſorts of freſh-water or river fiſh with them, pike and ſalmon excepted; and I make no manner of doubt but they would prove an acceptable bait to them, could it be ſo contrived as to fix them upon a hook that could hold either ſalmon or pike.

GUDGEONS

ARE ſuch a pleaſant, ſweet, and delicate fiſh, that if they were not ſo common they would be

as valuable as a ſmelt. They ſpawn in March or April, and are in ſeaſon moſt part of the year. In the ſummer they delight in ſhallow ſtreams, whoſe bottoms are ſandy and gravelly, and will bite frequently all day from an hour after ſun riſe till within an hour of ſun ſet, whether it be gloomy, warm, or ſunſhine weather; but in autumn, when the weeds begin to rot, and grow ſour, they retire into the deep waters. The uſual way of angling for them is, to take up the ſand or gravel, and by that means render the water thick and foul, which will make them bite the faſter, though they are free enough at any time; or elſe you may caſt into the river dried earth or duſt: but if the water be made thick with rain, they will not bite.

They will take gentles, or the cow-dung worm; but the ſmall red worm is what pleaſes them beſt. If you can find a bridge or plank over a ſmall river, chuſe to angle underneath for gudgeons; for they love the ſhade, and are ſo far from being ſhy or wary, that you may not only appear in ſight, but if you drive them from their place of reſort, they will immediately return. A ſingle hair line, a fine taper rod, a float, and a ſmall hook, is what you muſt uſe, and your bait muſt drag upon the ground.

B L E A K

ARE a ſmall, fat, pleaſant fiſh; and called by ſome the freſh-water ſprats: they will riſe, like the dace, at a ſmall houſe fly, upon the ſurface of the water; or will take a gentle, or white paſte, about a foot and a half under water. The ſmalleſt hooks are the propereſt for them; and a paternoſter line, that is, a ſingle-hair line, with ſix or ſeven hooks, each three or four inches above the other, baited with gentles and caddice well ſcoured: paſte or red worms are what are uſed in eddies, to which places they reſort in the ſpring ſeaſon. If you angle for them in the Thames, you may lay in deeper than in other rivers; and it is obſervable, that in rivers they continue ſound and healthful all the ſummer; but the Thames bleak ſoon run mad, occaſioned by a worm which breeds in their heads: it is a flat-jointed worm, and ſometimes ſo long, that, ſhould I mention what I have ſeen, I ſhould ſcarcely meet with credit.

E E L S

DELIGHT in ſtill waters with muddy bottoms, and are in ſeaſon, or rather, in their prime, in

in the winter; but are difficult to be taken during the ſix cold months, becauſe they generally get into the mud, or ſoft earth, where they bed together, the better to enable them to endure the ſeverity of the winter: they are alſo taken ſometimes upon a ſand or gravel, but rarely.

There are ſeveral baits by which eels may be taken, and ſeveral ways of taking them; but the uſual baits are, a lob worm, minnow, or the ſmalleſt gudgeon: angle for them upon the grabble, and be not too eager in ſtriking; for they will ſuck the bait for ſome time; and, if you have patience, it will be ten to one that they will hook themſelves: they bite freeſt in or after a ſhower of rain.

EEL POUTS

ARE preferable to an eel: their places of reſort are the ſame with the eel, but they are to be taken in peals of thunder, lightning, and heavy rain, which drives them from their holes; and the propereſt bait for them is a ſmall gudgeon: they are large, afford great ſport, and have an excellent taſte.

RUFF

RUFF and POPE.

ARE the ſame fiſh, with different names: they are ſmall, but choice and good; and though there is but little meat upon them, yet it is very ſweet. They delight in deep, ſtill holes: and when you have found out their haunt, you may catch forty or fifty, ſometimes double that number, at a ſtanding. They bite free and eager; and you may angle with two or three hooks, and pull up as many of them at a time as you have hooks to your line. You may bait the ground with freſh earth, and immediately lay in your line of a ſingle hair, and bait your hooks with gentles or red worms.

MINNOW, or PENK.

ARE in ſeaſon from March to Michaelmas, except immediately after ſpawning time: it is uſually full of ſpawn, and breeds often, and is not inferior to any fiſh for its excellency of taſte. His biting time is from an hour after ſun riſe, and is taken at mid water, or near or cloſe to the bottom;

bottom; and the only bait is the ſmalleſt red worm. Uſe a float, and the ſame hook which are uſed for the bleak. After Michaelmas he betakes himſelf to the mud weeds, or weedy places in rivers, as a preſervative againſt floods, and a ſecurity againſt his becoming a prey to other fiſh.

BULL-HEADS, or MILLER's-THUMB,

SPAWN in April; and the vent is ſo full of ſpawn, that they are ſwelled almoſt into the form of a dug. Bull-heads hide themſelves in holes, or among ſtones in clear water, and in very hot days will lie a long time ſunning themſelves, and are eaſily ſeen upon any flat ſtone, or on the gravel; at which time the moſt unexpert angler may take him with a ſmall red worm.

LOACH

ARE a delicate fiſh, and very wholeſome, breed and feed in little and clear ſwift brooks and rills; live

lives upon the gravel, and in the ſharpeſt ſtreams; and their growth is not above a finger's length, and their thickneſs proportionable. They ſeldom riſes above the gravel, and are therefore to be angled for at the bottom, with a little red worm.

APPENDIX,

APPENDIX.

CONTAINING,

I. The Method of Rock fiſhing, and Sea fiſhing; the Baits which are uſed, and the ſeveral Sorts of Fiſh that are taken by Sportſmen that Way.

II. An Explanation of technical Words and Phraſes, uſed by fair Anglers, alphabetically digeſted.

Of ROCK *and* SEA FISHING.

ROCK fiſhing has a double advantage, which anglers cannot pretend to; it is much pleaſanter and more healthful. In angling, a man is expoſed all day to the ſcorching heat of the ſun, which blunts the edge of his diverſion, and too often lays a foundation for a fever: whereas in rock fiſhing, nature ſeems to have made a proviſion againſt this accident; ſo that while the ſun is running

ning his courſe, and happens to ſhine upon you, you may with eaſe ſhift your ſtation, and be defended from the inclemency of its over heat, by ſitting under a rock, which ſerves as a canopy. Beſides, you have the advantage of the circumambient air of both land and ſea; and as there is not any marſhy or boggy ground near the rocks, ſo you are not in danger of feeling the unhappy effects of the fumes, vapours, and exhalations that ariſe from thence, and the air of the ſalt water is reckoned to be more ſalubrious than that of rivers. To this may be added, that it creates an appetite; and what can be more conducive to health than to eat and drink moderately in a cool ſhade when the ſun is at the meridian?

This kind of diverſion, which is not to be followed but during the ſummer ſeaſon, is practiſed chiefly in the ſouth and weſt parts of England, and in ſome places in Ireland; and in this laſt-mentioned country, the rocks of Dunleary, which are eight or ten miles in length, and the neareſt part about five miles eaſtward of the city of Dublin, are remarkable for this way of fiſhing; and you are ſure of meeting with variety of company,

A different method muſt be uſed here, from what is the general practice of angling: for in your freſh-water rivers, you are obliged to angle with

with a very fine line; but in rock fiſhing, your line ought to have at leaſt five or ſix hairs in every link. A float is neceſſary, and two hooks; one to reach the bottom, and the other to keep in mid water; and the beſt time to follow this ſport is when the tide is half ſpent, and to be continued till within two hours of high water. The morning and evening are the moſt preferable parts of the day, provided the tide ſhall then happen to favour your deſign.

The baits which are uſed generally in rock fiſhing are the cockle, the lob, and the marſh worms; but there is another ſort, called the hairy worm, which is preferable to all the reſt, and is ſo univerſally beloved by all the fiſh that you need uſe no other.

Hairy worms, if full grown, are near four inches long; they are flat and broad, and reſemble an earwig, and are to be found on the ſea ſhore, when the ſalt water has left it, eſpecially if the ſhore be part ſand and part mud. They are to be dug out with a ſpade as you would dig for earth worms; and when you have waſhed them from their filth and dirt, which muſt be done in ſalt water, and not in freſh, they will appear to be of a fine, pale, fleſh colour. They are to be placed upon the hook with their heads foremoſt, leaving about an inch to play in the water.

There

There is one little inconveniency attending rock fiſhing, of which it will be neceſſary to caution the unwary reader; that he muſt not be ſurpriſed if he ſometimes finds his hook to be faſtened under water; and then, if he cannot get it looſed in two or three offers, he has nothing to do but to wait with patience, or to take off his line from the rod, and make faſt the top of it, ſo that it may not be drawn into the water.

It often will be looſened in half a quarter of an hour, and ſometimes not till the tide ebbs almoſt as low as the place where it is faſtened. This accident is occaſioned by an ill-flavoured little fiſh, called a cobler, or miller's thumb; which, as ſoon as he has ſucked in the bait, retires into the cleft or cranny of the rock, and turning about, renders it impoſſible to diſengage him till he has a mind to come out himſelf, or till the ſinking of the water compels him to it.

This cobler, or miller's thumb, ſeldom exceeds four inches in length; he has a large head, large eyes, wide mouth, and two large fins cloſe by his gills; the upper part of his body is thick, and deſcends taperwiſe to his tail. There is but little meat upon him, which is reckoned unwholeſome; and therefore for the trick he plays, and being a fiſh diſliked by every body, his fate generally is, to have a ſmall ſtick thruſt through his eyes,

eyes, and then to be caſt into the ſea, where he ſwims till he dies.

He who deſigns to divert himſelf with rock fiſhing, ought to have a ſtrong jointed rod, which he may ſhorten upon occaſion, or keep it at its full length, the better to command his line, when he has hooked a fiſh, or when the tide increaſes, or decreaſes; and the line muſt be ſtrong, the better to endure pulling, when it ſhall happen to be faſtened to the ſea weeds, which are generally tough; and the beſt way to diſengage from thence, is to uſe the lead ring and ſmall cord, as ſhewn in angling, and then working it backwards and forwards till it gets clear of the weeds.

The ſame advice is alſo to be followed here, which was given in the beginning of the book, concerning the angler's apparatus or fiſh tackle; namely, to be provided with a ſufficient ſtock of every thing that is requiſite and neceſſary, as ſilk, hooks, lines, wax, &c. leſt by miſchance he may happen to break a line or hook, and for want of an immediate ſupply, be deprived of his future ſport for that day.

Nor muſt a landing net be forgot, which is abſolutely neceſſary when the tide is low, or when you ſtand upon a rock too high above the water, that you may thereby land your fiſh, without running

running the hazard of breaking your line in weighing him; and leſt your landing net may at any time be damaged, and thereby rendered uſeleſs, you ought alſo to be equipped with a landing hook, to ſupply its place, and prevent the loſs of a good fiſh, which is to be hooked under the gills, that, when he gives a ſpring as you take him out of the water, he may not break his hold, or your line (according to the directions before given in angling).

There are but four ſorts of fiſh which are generally taken by rock fiſhing, namely, ſea bream, flounders, whiting pollock, and rock whiting.

Of SEA BREAM.

SEA bream are not ſo broad and flat, nor altogether ſo large as river bream, when full grown: they ſeldom exceed twelve or fourteen inches at moſt; they are fuller bodied, more plump and thick, inclineable to be round; their colour is generally a pale red, which turns to a deeper red when they are dreſſed. The uſual way of dreſſing them, is to boil them; though they eat well either fried or boiled; and freſh butter, with an anchovy or muſhrooms, is the ſauce.

Sea

Sea bream are well taſted, but full of bones; and this may be the reaſon why ſome people account them a coarſe fiſh. They afford good diverſion in the water, and the larger ſort will try the ſkill and judgement of the fiſherman: they are not proper to be eat by thoſe who have a weak ſtomach; for though they are nouriſhing and ſtrengthening, yet they are not eaſily digeſted.

Of FLOUNDERS.

THERE is very little, if any diſtinction between the river flounders, and thoſe taken in the ſalt water; and though the former come originally from the ſea, yet, by continuing in freſh water, they become firmer and better taſted than thoſe taken in the ſalt water. This may be eaſily proved, by flounders expoſed to ſale on market days at Billingſgate, which are caught beyond the buoy at the Nore, and thoſe taken in the Thames above bridge, or thoſe rather that are caught in the rivers which run into the Thames. The ſalt-water flounders are much larger than thoſe of the freſh water, and are eſteemed by ſome to be equally as good; and I am apt to think it would puzzle the niceſt palate to diſtinguiſh the one from the other; and if any man

man makes a right diſtinction, it may very well be ſaid to be more by chance than any thing elſe. As all thoſe fiſh, if large, draw a great quantity of water, ſo the ſalt-water flounders will afford good ſport.

Of WHITING POLLOCK.

THIS ſort of fiſh is rather round in the body, than of any other ſhape; it is well taſted, nouriſhing, and fleaky as cod. It ſeldom exceeds twelve inches in length, and in colour is a darkiſh gray. It ſtruggles hard when hooked; and, by making a long defence for its life, makes alſo much diverſion for the fiſherman. Boiling is the proper way of dreſſing it; and it requires the ſame ſauce which is uſed for cod.

Of ROCK WHITING.

THIS fiſh is a ſpecies of the whiting and whiting pollock, but differs from both, and yet is often palmed upon the ignorant for true whiting. It is not altogether of ſuch a dark gray as the whiting pollock, nor ſo bright in colour as the whiting. Its chief place of reſidence is among the rocks, from whence it derives part of its

its name; it affords good nouriſhment, is eaſy of digeſtion, and agrees with weak ſtomachs. It makes but an indifferent defence for its life, and conſequently not much diverſion for the fiſherman. It is well taſted; and as to its ſize, is much the ſame with the whiting.

Theſe are the different ſorts of fiſh which are generally taken at rock fiſhing; though it often happens, and I have frequently ſeen crabs, as large as thoſe which are ſold commonly by the fiſhmongers in London for eight pence or nine pence apiece, taken the ſame way. But thoſe who divert themſelves with catching crabs, ſhould bait their hooks with chicken guts, or with the guts of fiſh; and then again they muſt obſerve, that when they bring a crab near the ſurface of the water, to have their landing net ready; or to weigh him, or take him on ſhore with all the expedition imaginable, otherwiſe he will quit his hold, and drop down almoſt as ſoon as he perceives he is out of the water.

Of SEA FISHING.

THE manner of ſea fiſhing, as uſed by gentlemen for recreation and paſtime, is when they

are upon the ſea, either in a boat, wherry, or ſhip.

When in a boat, or wherry, they ſeldom fiſh for, or catch any other than whiting and haddock; the former of theſe is moſt frequently taken, the latter coming by mere accident.

Of WHITING.

WHITINGS are ſuch innocent food, and ſo well known, that it would be loſt time to give a deſcription of them, or their virtues. If you have a mind to divert yourſelf with this kind of fiſhing, you muſt firſt know where to find the place where whitings reſort, and the ſureſt method I can lay down, which I may venture to affirm without exception, is this: when you have put off from the ſhore, obſerve diligently, and look out for the ſea gulls; and when you perceive where they hover, and eſpecially when they fly down, and ſeem to dip themſelves in the water, you may from thence conclude that a ſcale of whitings is there. For as in the ſummer time they keep as near the ſurface of the ſea as poſſible, the gulls fly down and wound them with their bills; and when they

they are either dead, or disabled from making their escape, the gulls then fed upon them.

Having discovered where the whitings are, you must cast anchor there, and prepare your fish tackle: you will not have occasion to use a rod, which is here altogether useless. You must fasten one end of your line to the inside of the boat, which must be a pater-noster line, with half a dozen hooks, each half a yard distant from the other; and having baited them with hairy worms (which are the most inticing baits of any, if you can get them, if not, you must use the lob, or the marsh worms), then cast it into the sea. You need not wait long before you draw it up; neither have you any occasion to hold it in your hand, to know when the fish bite; for as whitings are a very greedy fish, they will quickly gorge the bait, and by that means make themselves fast to your hooks. Thus you may divert yourself, till you are in a manner tired with your sport: and I have been in company with some gentlemen at this diversion, when, upon counting the number we have taken in an afternoon, mine amounted to twenty-four dozen. This perhaps may seem incredible to some; but those who are acquainted with this method of fishing, can affirm the probability of what I have asserted;

for I have known a much larger number taken in the ſame ſpace of time. Nor is it at all unlikely, if we conſider how voracious whitings are, and if the true method be purſued in fiſhing for them: for as ſoon as you have taken one whiting from the hook, you put on a freſh bait, and drop it into the ſea; ſo that it is ten to one if one hook or another has not a whiting hung to it, though you draw up never ſo faſt.

Of HADDOCK.

IN ſhape and colour the haddock reſembles a cod much more than any other fiſh, when full grown. It is well taſted, fleaky, and affords good nouriſhment; but yet it is reckoned a coarſe fiſh.

The ſmall ſort of haddocks are often ſold for large whitings, and the middle ſize for young cods.

When you fiſh for them, your line muſt be deep in the water, and your hook baited with two or three lob worms: your tackle muſt be ſtrong, for they ſtruggle hard, and are not eaſy to be overcome, eſpecially if they have arrived to a tolerable growth.

As to the other part of ſea fiſhing, it is in a ſhip when under ſail; your line ought to be ſixty fathom in length, a large hook affixed to it, and a piece of lead ſufficient to keep it as deep under water as poſſible; and your line is to be made of hemp, and faſtened to the gunwale of the ſhip.

Cod, mackerel, and large haddocks are the fiſh uſually taken this way, and ſometimes ling. The bait for them, except for the mackerel, is a piece of raw beef; and it is ſcarce poſſible to feel either of them bite, even though you hold the line in your hand, by reaſon of the continual motion of the ſhip, eſpecially if ſhe makes any way. I ſhall at preſent treat only of the mackerel.

Of MACKEREL.

A MACKEREL is a fiſh ſo well known, that it needs not any deſcription; and it is in vain to fiſh for them, except when the ſhip lies by, or is becalmed. A piece of ſcarlet cloth hung upon a hook, is the firſt bait that is uſed, and which never fails of anſwering the intent it was deſigned for. From hence aroſe the common ſaying, a ſcarlet coat is a mackerel bait for the ladies.

When you have taken a mackerel, cut a thin piece off from the tail, a little above the fin, and place it upon your hook, and you need not fear taking many of them. Thus one or two will ſerve for baits, till you are tired with the ſport. One mackerel, if dreſſed as ſoon as it is taken, will be preferable to a dozen that are brought to ſhore; for as it is a rich fiſh in its nature, it is the ſooner ſubject to decay, and to loſe its reliſh. The common method of dreſſing them on ſhipboard, is to ſplit them, and broil them on the coals, and to put ſome butter to them. Thoſe who have never taſted them dreſſed after this manner, can ſcarcely conceive what a delicious flavour they have; and there is as much difference between one that is dreſſed immediately, and one dreſſed as ſoon as brought on ſhore, as between the latter and one that is ſold in London. A mackerel that is bleeding freſh requires not any gooſeberries, or rich ſauce, to ſet it off; nothing being more palatable and pleaſant.

As gentlemen and ladies, who live near the ſea ſide, frequently divert themſelves, during the ſummer ſeaſon, in catching ſhrimps and prawns; it may not be improper (though not very congruous to the title of this book) to give inſtructions to thoſe who may have an inclination to

to ſpend an hour or two in this kind of paſtime.

The time of the tide muſt be punctually obſerved; that is, thoſe who intend to divert themſelves in taking ſhrimps and prawns, muſt be at the ſea ſhore, ready to go upon the rocks as ſoon as the tide begins to leave them. A net muſt be provided in the ſhape of a cabbage net, but deeper, and the meſhes ſmaller; this is to be faſtened to a bow with a handle, the ſame in ſhape and ſize with a tennis-ball racket.

This being provided, obſerve the holes or hollows between the rocks, and eſpecially thoſe in which there are many ſea weeds, for under them the ſhrimps and prawns take ſhelter. All that you have to do, is, to thruſt your net as cloſe to the ſide of the rock, under a part of thoſe weeds; then take it up, and turn out what you have taken into a pail, or little tub: proceed thus from one part of the hole to another, till you think you have taken what was in it, and fail not to try the ſame place twice or thrice; for the fiſh, when diſturbed, will ſhift their ſtation. I have taken ſometimes five, and at other times eight hundred, in an hour's time, by this method.

An EXPLANATION of technical Words and Phraſes uſed by the fair Angler; digeſted in an alphabetical Order.

A.

APPARATUS:—In this word is included in general all the fiſhing tackle, of what kind or nature ſoever, which the angler ſhall at any time make uſe of; as wax, ſilk, hooks, plummets, lines, rods, &c.

B.

A *bawk*,—Is a knot in a hair or link of a line, and is often occaſioned by the twiſting of an eel; which, if not rectified in time, will cauſe the hair or link to break in that place.

To bed:—Hairs are ſaid to bed, or to be well bedded, when they twiſt kindly, ſo that the

link is equally round in every part which cannot be effected if there be a flat hair among them.

Bedding;—This is a term given to the ſubſtance, whether ſilk, wool, &c. of which the body of an artificial fly is compoſed.

Beard;—The beard, is that part of the hook which is a little above the point in the bending of it: if it be too ſhort or blunt, the angler will not catch any fiſh; for the beard is the chief part of the hook which holds faſt the fiſh.

A *Blind*,—Is a part of a ditch, hedge, or row of ſmall ſhoots, or any thing elſe a little more than knee high, at the edge of the water, to prevent the angler being diſcerned by the fiſh. If one that is natural cannot be found, an artificial one muſt be made.

A *Brace*, — *i. e.* two; as a brace of carp, trout, &c.

A *Break*,—Is a knot in a joint, deſigned for an angle rod, which muſt be cut cloſe and raſped till it is ſmooth and level with the other part of the joint.

C.

To Chine;—As, to chine a ſalmon, a term uſed to cut up a ſalmon, and no other fiſh.

To cock:—A float is ſaid to cock well, when it is ſo equally balanced by the lead, a little above the hook, that it ſwims upright in the water, which is the poſition it ſhould be in.

D.

To Dab, — Is, when you have placed a fly upon your hook, to ſhake it over what part of the river you think fit, and let it fall gently on the ſurface of the water; and this kind of exerciſe is called dabbing.

A *Drag*, — Is a piece of iron reſembling four hooks, placed back to back; the ſhank is four inches long, and a hole at the upper part of it, to which a long hemp line is faſtened. The fair angler makes no uſe of this, except to ſave his line; as when a bough, knot of graſs, or any other thing ſwims down and bears againſt his line, which he apprehends may break it; he then caſts his drag, and draws it out; or elſe, if his line breaks, or ſlips from the top of his rod, he throws in his drag, to pull it out gently.

To Dreſs, — is a term uſed by an angler in an artificial fly; as when he cuts off any of the ſilk, wool, &c. that ſtares out of the body;

and when he alſo cuts off the ſuperfluous ends of the wings, when they are too long, &c.

A *Drift* :— this is a term given to anglers and fiſhermen, when four or more are in company together, and then they are called a drift.

To Dub,—is a technical word to make an artificial fly.

E.

To Eaſe, — is when the angle rod reſts upon the fork, the angler puſhes it gently forward; and this is to be done when a carp, or any other fiſh is at the bait, which nibbles a while before he takes the bait into his mouth; and that he may not be checked, the angler eaſes off his line.

Eyes, — are ſmall pieces of braſs wire placed in a direct line from one end of the rod to the other, to guide the line and keep it from twiſting, which comes from the wince or wheel; and this method is uſed in angling for any large or ſtrong fiſh, which require to be humoured, as ſalmon, barbel, carp, trout, &c.

F.

Fair. — this is an epithet given to anglers, in oppoſition to poachers; the former making angling

angling his diverſion, and the latter his profit, not caring what indirect methods he uſes to catch fiſh.

To fin,—is a term of art, and ſignifies to carve or cut up a chub, or chevin.

A *Flaw*, — is a gouty part in a hair, bigger than any other part; which being rotten, will make the hair break in that place.

A *Float*,—is a piece of cork cut in the ſhape of an egg, but more pointed at the ſmall end; it has a ſmall hole in it from top to bottom, through which the line paſſes, or into which a piece of ſtick or a piece of quill is put, to keep the line ſteady. There is alſo another made of a quill, which is moſt frequently uſed; and the deſign of a float is to give you notice when a fiſh bites, which you will know by the float being drawn under water.

A *Fork*. Vide *Reſt*.

Fruſhed, is a term uſed for a chub or chevin when it is dreſſed; as to fruſh, *i. e.* to dreſs.

G.

To gobbet; —as, to gobbet a trout, *i. e.* to cut it up.

To gorge, — *i. e.* to ſwallow; as, the fiſh has gorged the hook.

Grabble

Grabble: — to lie upon the grabble, is when a running bullet, or flat piece of lead, keeps the line firm on the bottom of the river; ſo that the link to which the hook is faſtened may play about with the current of the water.

H.

To halter:—This term is uſed by the fair angler in no other ſenſe than to ſecure and keep alive pike, carp, or any fiſh in the river, which is performed after this manner: The angler takes a piece of a hempen line, of what length he thinks fit, and putting one end of it twice through the gills of the fiſh, but not through the mouth, he faſtens it, and ties the other end to a ſtick on the ſhore, or to the bough of a tree, or to long graſs; and caſting the fiſh into the water, leaves it there to ſwim about, and feed, as far as the length of the line will permit.

To hang:—An angler is ſaid to hang a fiſh, when he has faſtened his hook in him.

Harbour:—The harbours of any fiſh, are the weeds, or the ſtumps of trees, to which they retire either to gorge or pouch their food or prey, or to ſhelter them from the heat of the weather,

or

or to keep them warm from the inclemency of the winter.

Hill: — To go to hill, is a phraſe uſed by anglers, when carp, roach, or dace leave the great rivers, and go into the little ones to ſpawn.

Hold:—A fiſh is ſaid to break his hold, when he gets clear from the hook.

Hole,—Is a deep water where fiſh frequent; and when an angler has made ſuch a diſcovery, he is ſaid to have found a good hole.

J.

Jacks, — An appellation given to ſmall pike, till they have attained to the length of twenty-four inches.

K.

To kink,—Is a term uſed in trowling, when the line is twiſted between the top of the rod and the ring, through which it ought to run freely; or elſe, when part of the line twiſts about the other part that is coiled in your left hand. Silk lines are very apt to kink.

L.

To Leap — A fiſh is ſaid to leap, when he ſprings out of the water, either through wantonneſs, or for any other cauſe; and this is almoſt peculiar to trout or ſalmon.

A *Leap*, — Is a fall of water from an eminence, or place of ſmaller height, which ſeveral fiſh endeavour to ſurmount, in order to go to ſpawn. If on the other ſide the leap, a wire, or baſkets, or hurdles are placed, to receive the fiſh and prevent them from eſcaping; and as this is generally done to catch ſalmon, it is then called a ſalmon leap.

A *Leaſh*, i. e. *Three*; — as a leaſh of jacks, pike, trout, &c.

Link — A link is more or leſs hairs twiſted together; and a line is made of ſeveral links faſtened to each other with a fiſherman's knot.

Loops — Are pieces of leather, of different ſizes, ſewed together, and put over all the joints of the rod, when it is disjointed, to keep them tight and cloſe.

P.

Paſte — Is the pith of a roll kneaded in the hand until it comes to be as tough as dough; ſome-

ſometimes vermilion, honey, &c. is mixed with it; and at certain ſeaſons this ſerves for a bait, (being placed upon the hook according to art) for certain fiſh, as carp, &c.

Play—To play a fiſh, is an angler's phraſe for humouring him according to his nature, by permitting him to ſwim which way he will; or, when you have obliged him to return, to let him go a different way if he pleaſes. It is playing a fiſh, and not letting him eſcape, that the angler's ſport conſiſts in, and in which his ſkill and judgement is ſhewn.

To plumb—Is to fathom the water, to know the depth thereof, and the evenneſs of the bottom: this is done with a ſmall piece of thin lead rolled about the hook which is called a plummet.

To pouch—Is a term peculiar to jacks and pikes, when they ſwallow their prey.

To prime—Any fiſh that leaps out of the water is ſaid to prime, except trout and ſalmon.

Q.

To quoil—Is a term uſed in trouling, and ſignifies to gather up the line with the thumb and the two next fingers, in ſmall rings of an equal ſize.

A *reſt*—

R.

A *reſt*—Is a forked piece of ſtick with the forked end ſtanding upright, and the other end faſtened upon the ground. It is called a reſt, becauſe one part of the angler's rod lies upon it.

To riſe—Any fiſh is ſaid to riſe when he endeavours to take a real or an artificial fly on the ſurface of the water.

To run—This is properly applied to a jack or pike, in trouling; who when he has ſeized the bait, he runs to his harbour to pouch it; after which he runs again, and the angler is to ſtrike him.

S.

Sauced—As, the tench is well ſauced; a phraſe uſed by anglers, and ſignifies well dreſſed: it is peculiar to a tench.

A *Scale*—Any great number of fiſh in the water which cannot be eaſily numbered is called a ſcale.

To ſcour—To cleanſe; as worms are ſcoured from their filth and dirt, with moſs or fennel, &c. &c.

A *Scoure*—Is a gravelly bottom, over which the water is a little rough and ſhallow: here gudgeon;

geon, trout, roach, and dace like to come at certain ſeaſons.

A *Shank*—Is that part of the hook to which the line is whipt.

To ſhoot—Any fiſh is ſaid to ſhoot, when, upon the approach of the angler, or of any beaſt to the water ſide, it ſwims away.

Sided—As the haddock is ſided; *i. e.* it is carved or cut up.

Splayed—A technical term for a bream being cut up.

Splated—A pike is ſaid to be ſplated when it is carved up in the diſh.

Splice—To ſplice, in angling, ſignifies, to join the broken parts of the rod together, by cutting them into due form, putting wax between, and then twiſting it over with a waxed thread or ſilk. A line alſo is ſaid to be ſpliced, when, inſtead of knots, it is faſtened by placing the ends of the links together and twiſting it over with waxed ſilk, &c.

Stand—A ſtand is a convenient place by the water ſide; and it is either natural or artificial: that which is artificial is made by cutting away the boughs, weeds, or long graſs which obſtruct a paſſage to the river.

Stout—

Stout — Is an epithet given to a large fiſh, that ſtruggles hard, and makes good ſport.

Strike—Strike is a term uſed by an angler when he gives a moderate jerk at the time the fiſh takes the bait. From hence came the phraſe, "he "ſtruck a ſtout fiſh."

Swim—A ſwim, is that length of water in which the float ſwims along the ſtream as far as the rod and line will conveniently permit; and if it be clear, and free from weeds, graſs, or boughs, it is called a good ſwim.

Snapping—Is a method uſed by anglers in catching jacks or pike with a live bait.

T.

Thraſh—Is the graſs, weeds, hay, or any other filth or dirt which ſwims down the river, and incommodes the angler.

Trim—Vide Dreſs.

To troul—Signifies the manner of catching jacks or pike with a dead bait, in oppoſition to ſnapping; and this kind of action is called trouling.

To troul at home — Is a phraſe uſed by anglers, and given as an inſtruction to young beginners. It adviſes them to troul firſt cloſe to the river ſide, and then on the right and left hands; leſt, if a jack

jack or pike ſhould lie there, the ſudden approach of the angler ſhould cauſe him to ſhoot away.

Trounchened—Is a term uſed by anglers, and appropriated to eels when they are cut up.

Tuſked—This is a term appropriated to a barbel, which is ſaid to be tuſked when he is cut up in the diſh.

V.

To veer—ſignifies to let out your line from your wince or reel, after you ſtrike a large fiſh, leſt in checking him too ſuddenly he break his hold or your line.

W.

Warp—A rod is ſaid to be warped, when any part of it bends or is crooked by the heat of the ſun or otherwiſe.

Weigh—To weigh a fiſh, is to lift it out of the water with a rod and line only, and not making uſe of the landing net or landing hook. This is a very imprudent way; for if it be a ſtout fiſh, it will flounce as ſoon as taken out of the water, and very probably will break his hold or the line.

To whip — Is a term given by anglers to thoſe who uſe the artificial fly; and the action or manner is called whipping.

A *Wince*, is a braſs inſtrument affixed to the inſide of the rod near the but end, round which a line of thirty or forty yards is rolled, which is to be veered off when you have hooked a ſtout fiſh, that you may play him with ſafety; and to be rolled up again when you perceive him to return upon you, leſt he entangle the line, and thereby fruſtrate your expectation.

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